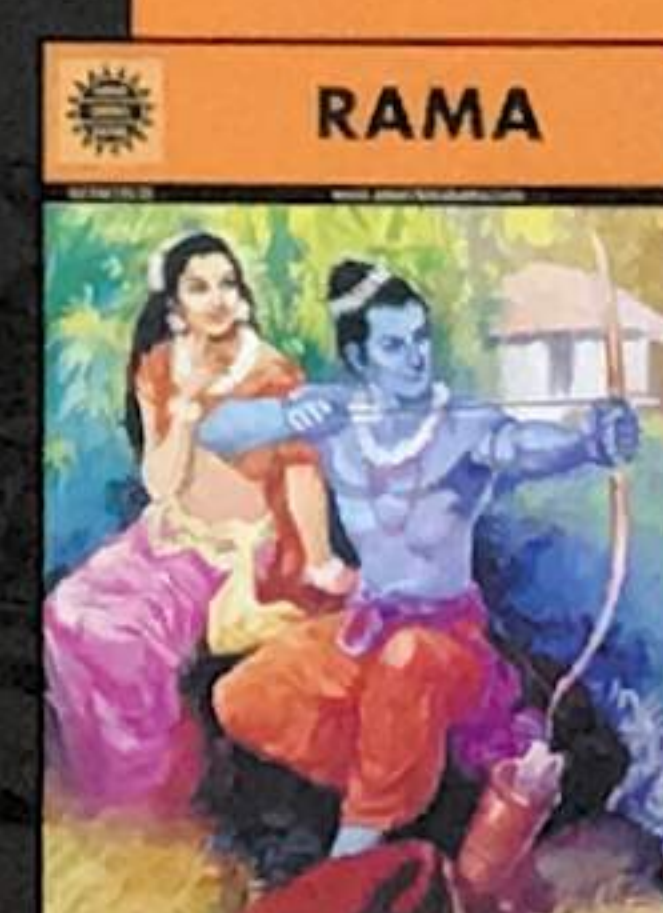
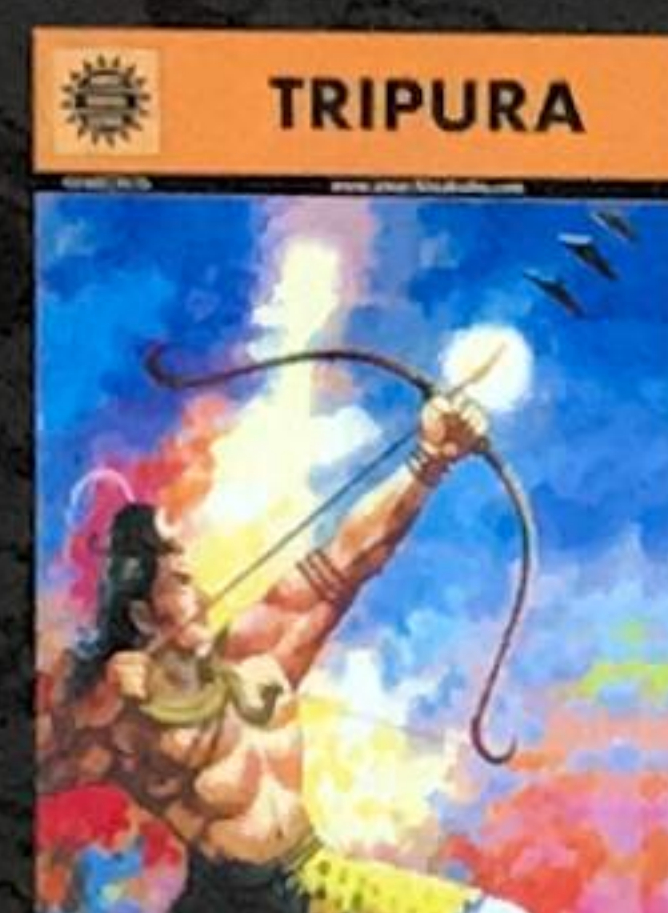
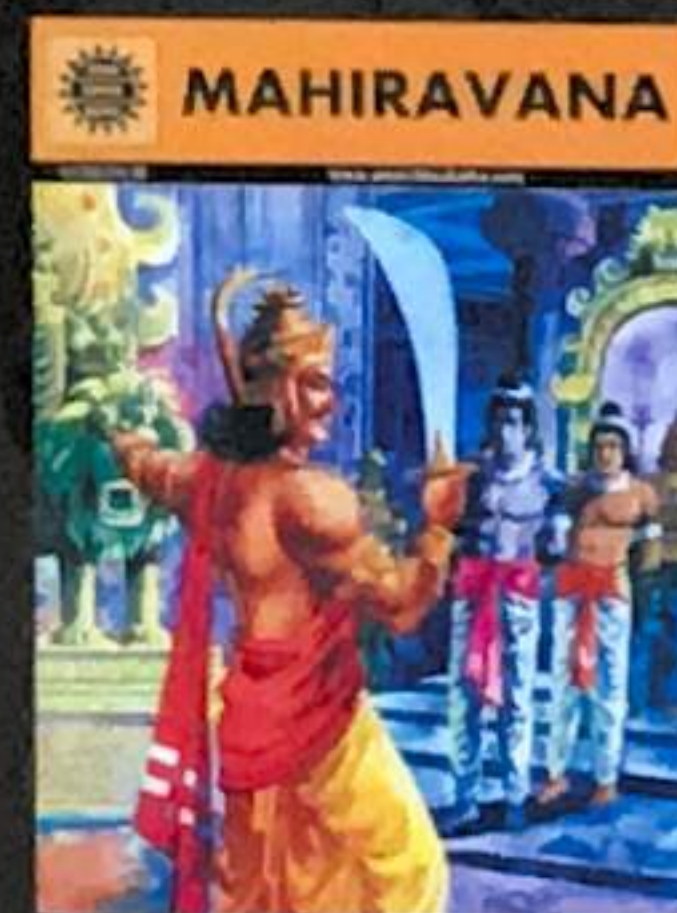


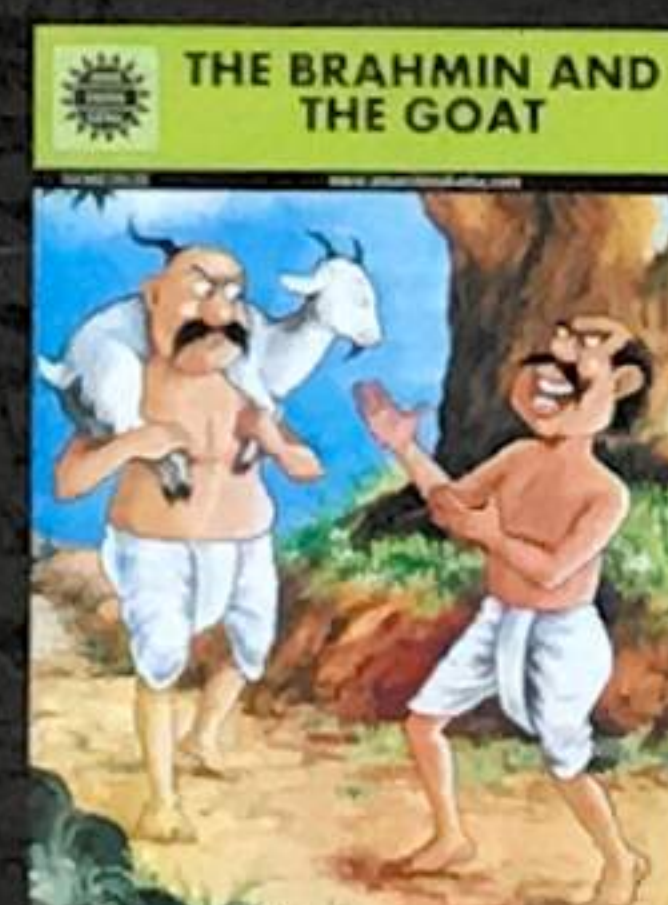
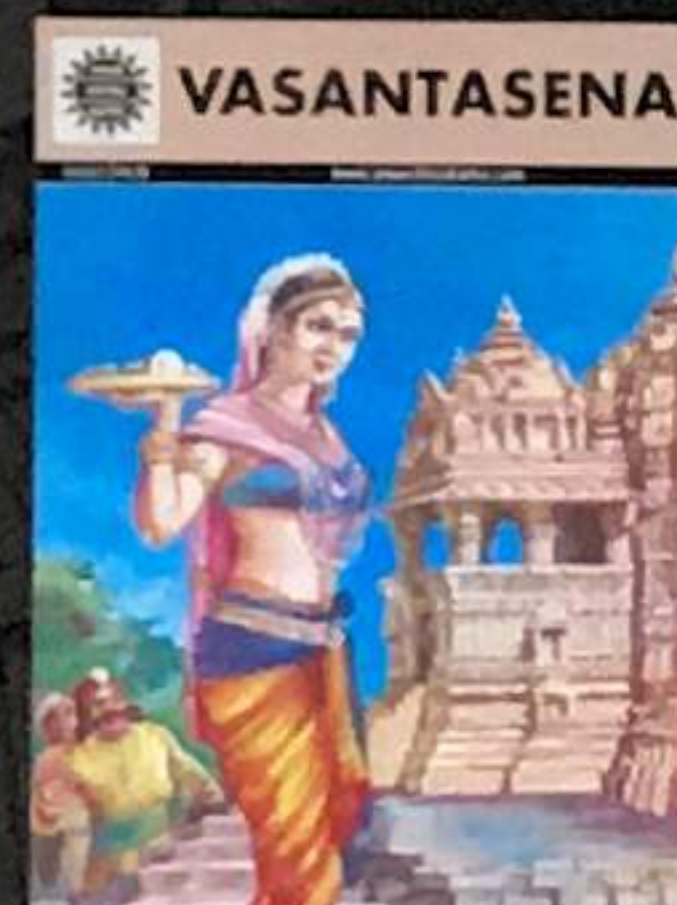
## RAVANA HUMBLD

Ravana had soaring ambitions – he thought he could be the lord of the universe. But he was no match for the great destroyer Lord Shiva, or the mighty thousand-armed Kartaveerya Arjuna, or even the monkey king Vali of Kishkindha. These powerful lords were merely amused by Ravana's arrogance, and saw him off with friendly words and a respect he did not deserve.

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# RAVANA HUMBLD

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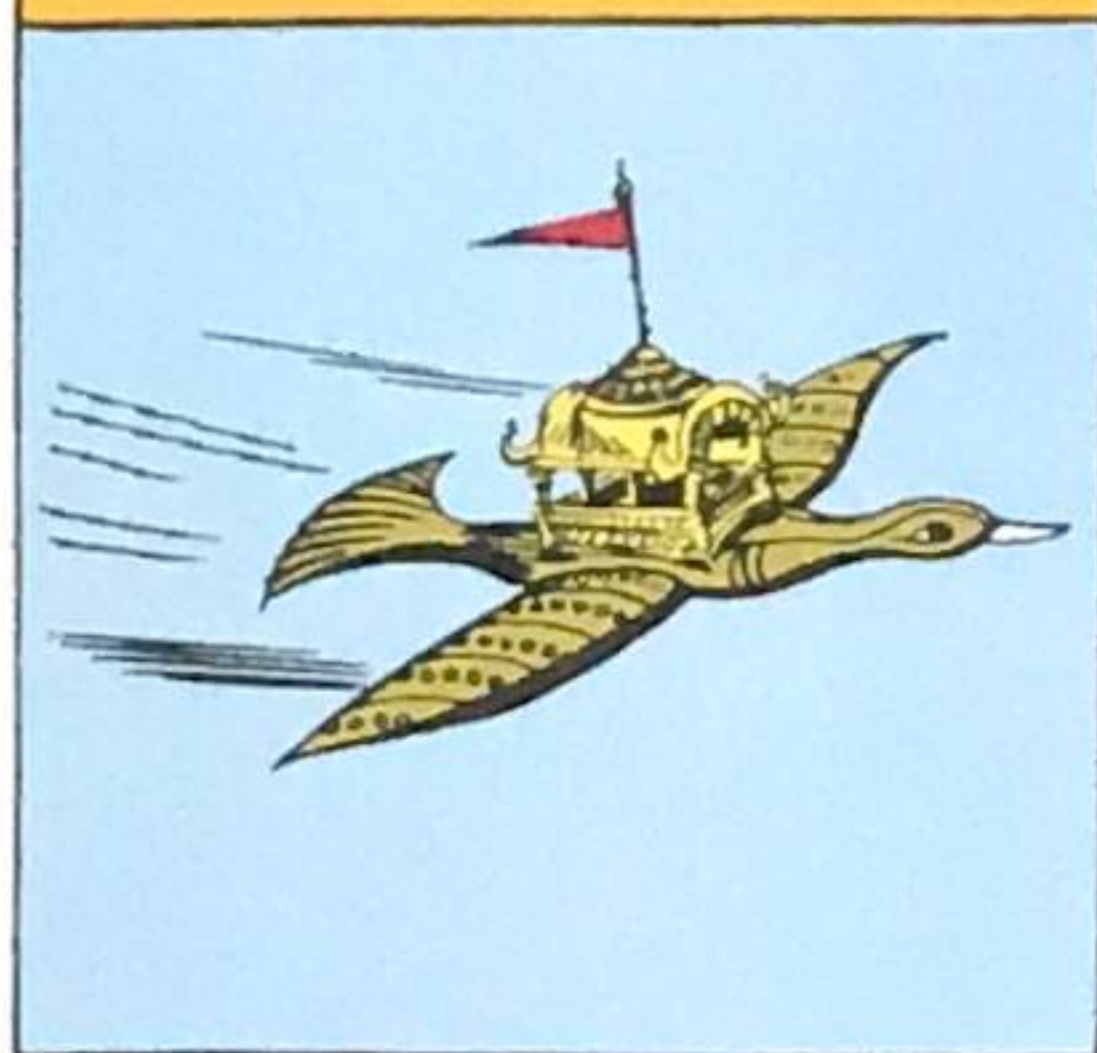
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# AT THE FEET OF SHIVA



RAVANA HAD DRIVEN AWAY  
HIS STEP-BROTHER, KUBERA,  
AND HAD MADE HIMSELF  
LORD OF LANKA AND  
ALL ITS WEALTH...

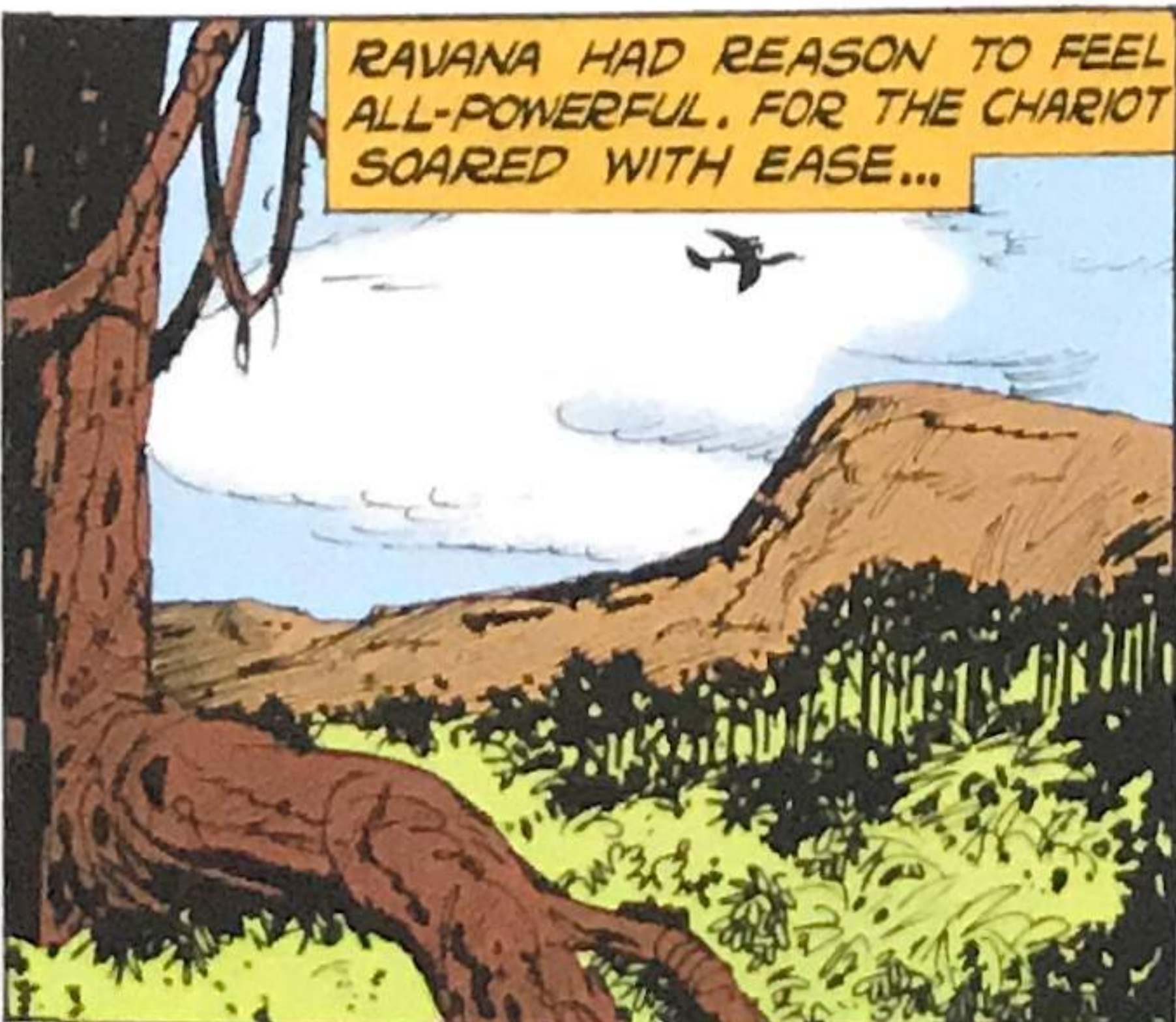
...INCLUDING PUSHPAKA, KUBERA'S  
FABULOUS AERIAL CHARIOT, THAT  
MOVED AS ITS OWNER WILLED.



NO ONE DARE  
CHALLENGE ME  
NOW. I AM  
LORD OVER  
ALL.



RAVANA HAD REASON TO FEEL  
ALL-POWERFUL. FOR THE CHARIOT  
SOARED WITH EASE...

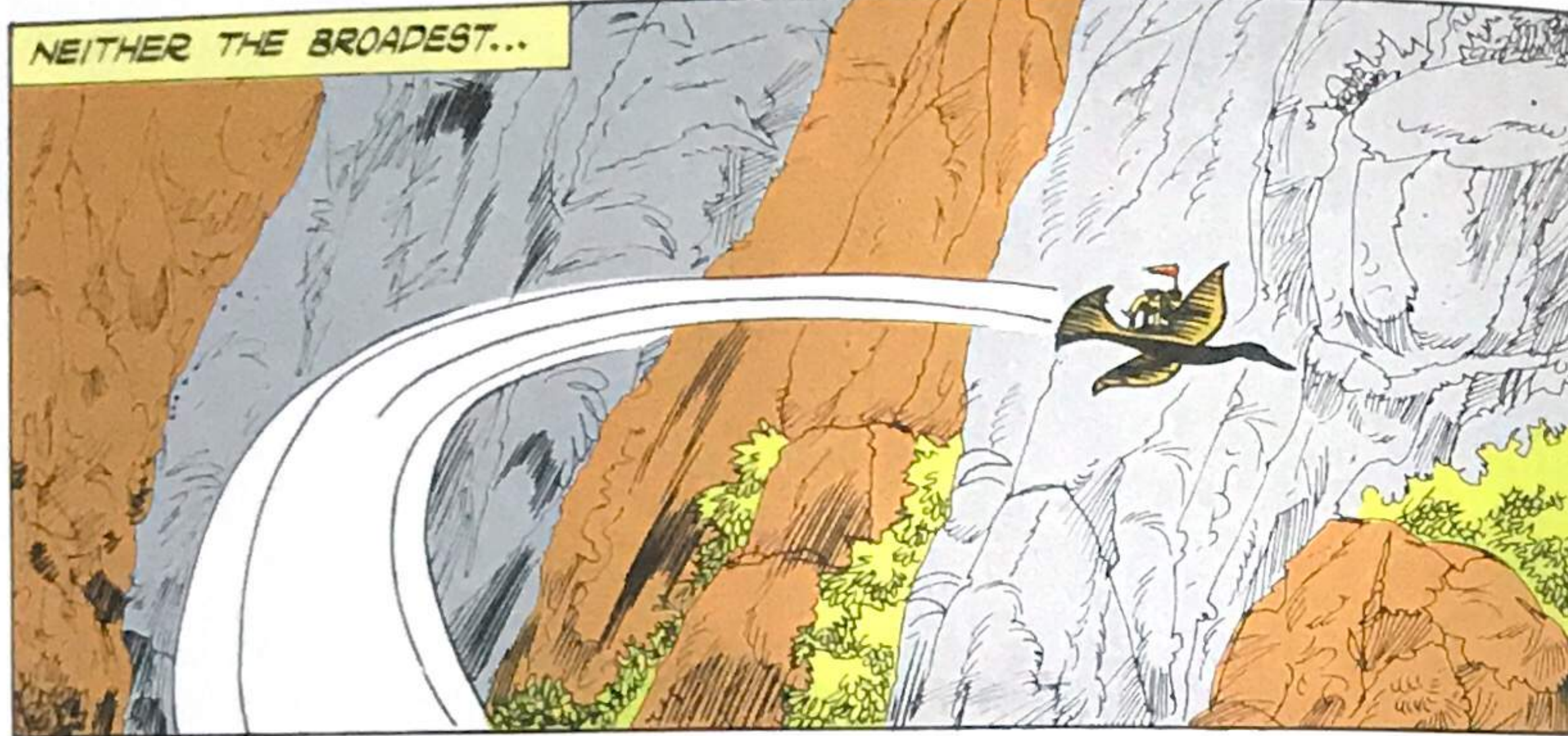


...OVER HILL AND DALE.





NEITHER THE BROADEST...

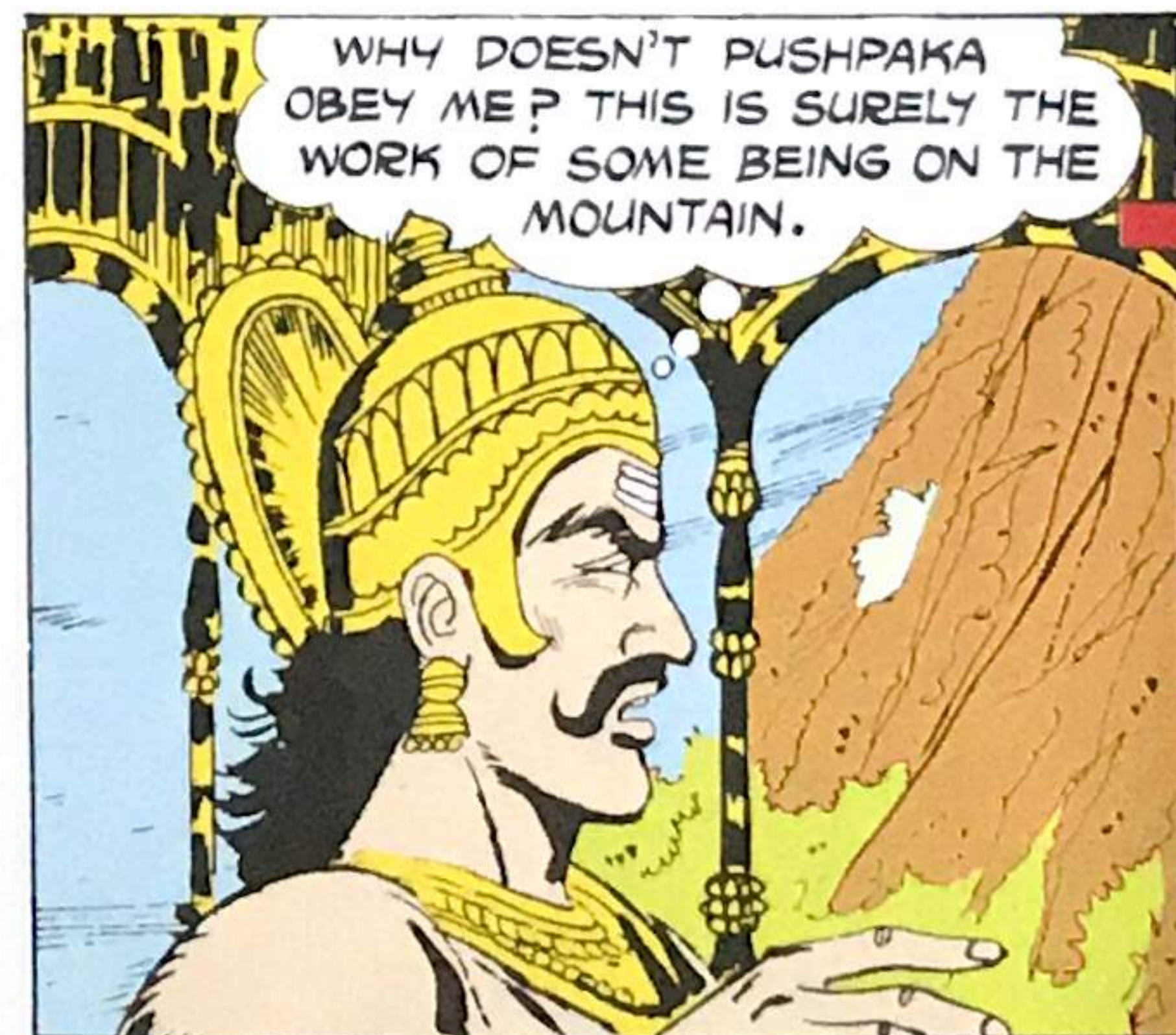
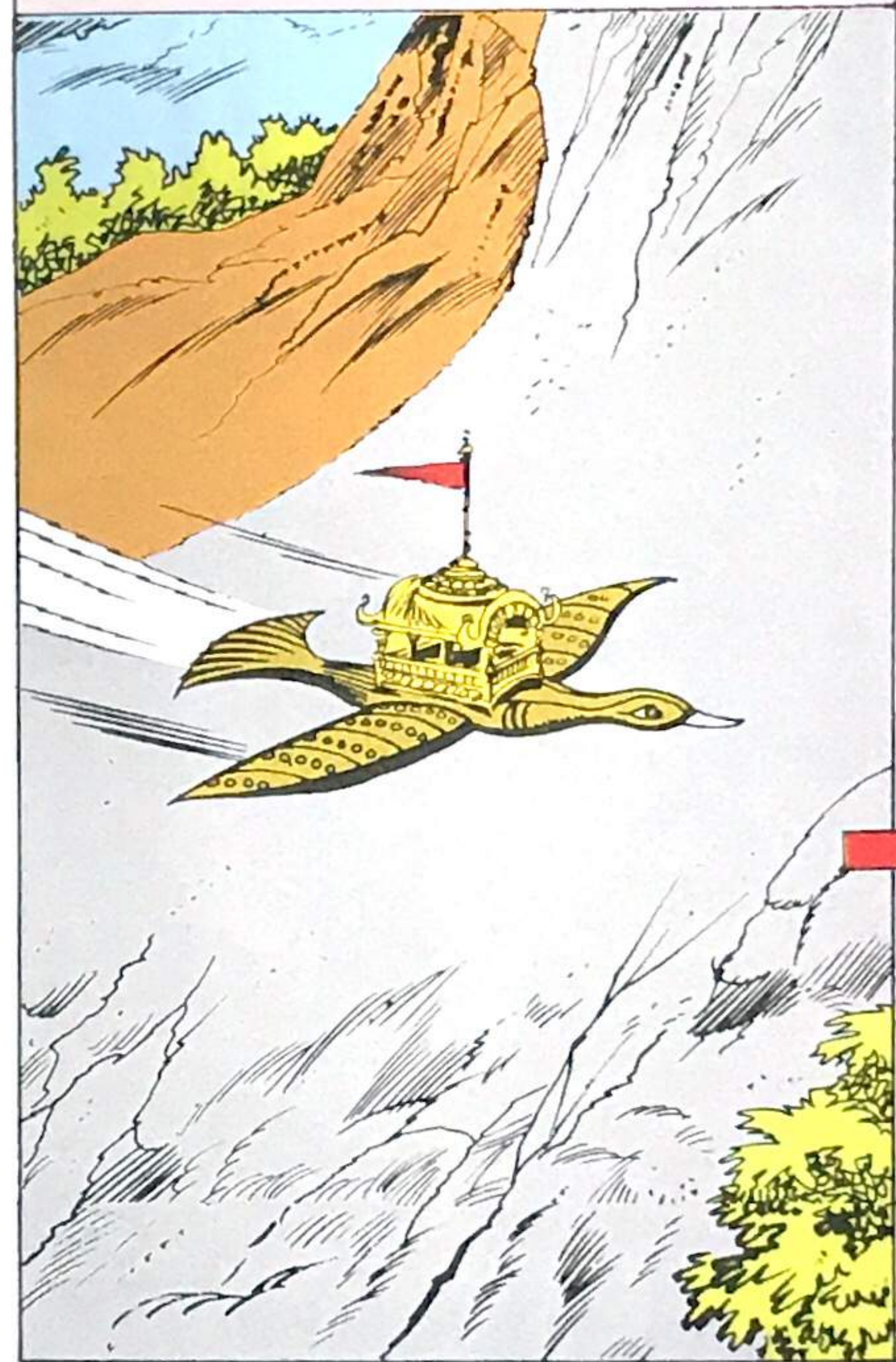


...NOR THE TALLEST OF MOUNTAINS  
COULD STOP ITS PROGRESS ONCE  
RAVANA HAD WILLED IT TO MOVE,

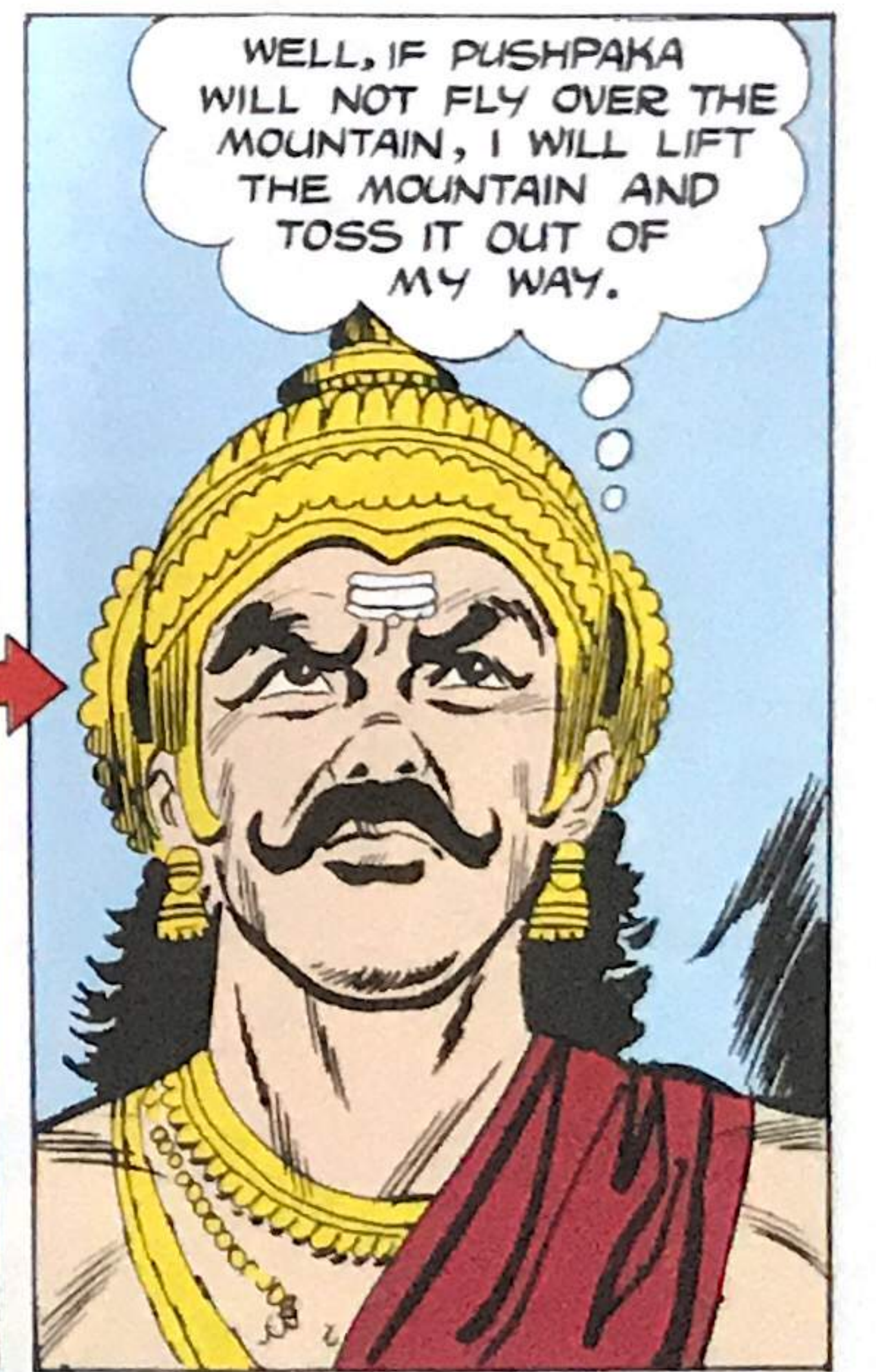
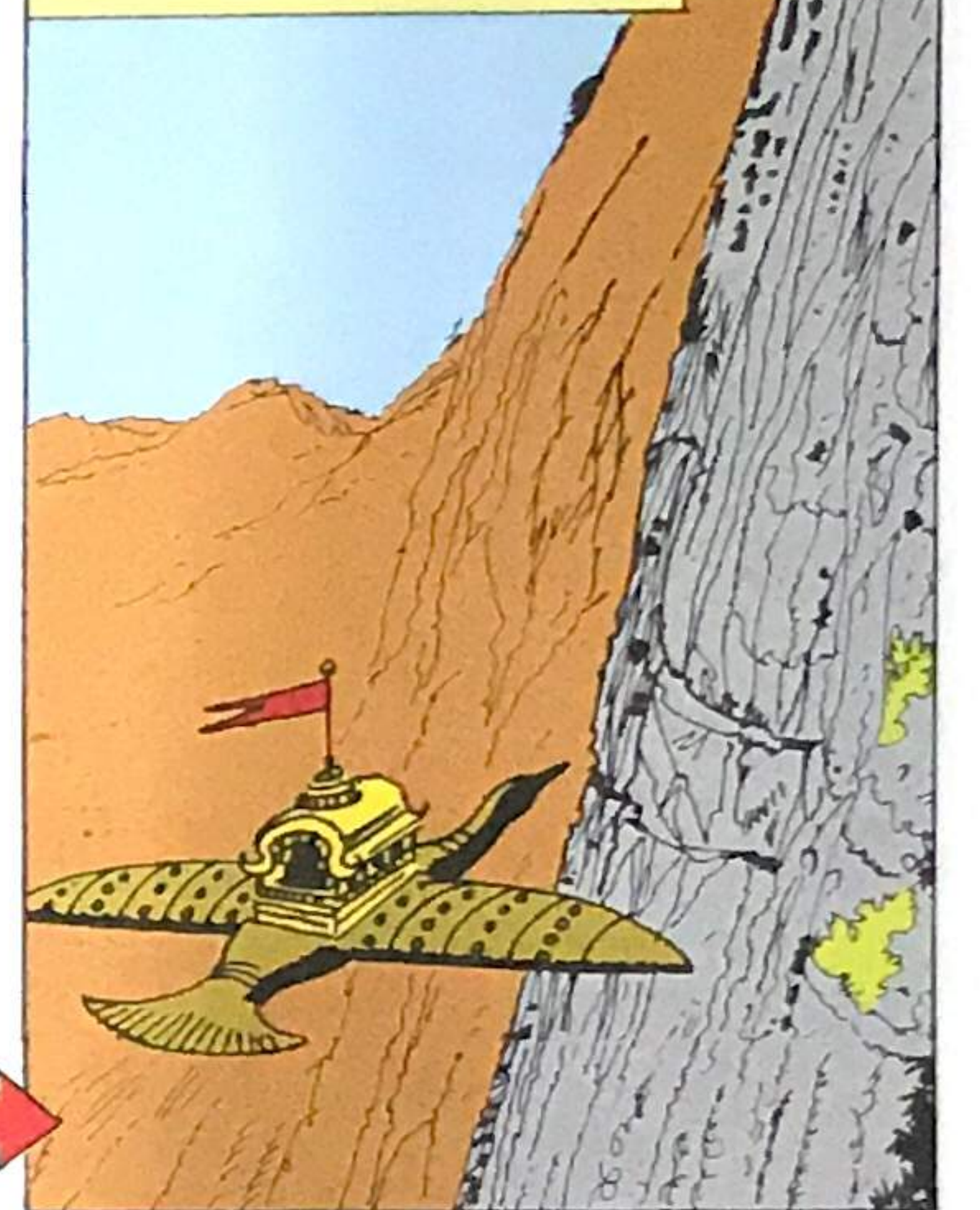


THE CHARIOT OBEYED  
HIS EVERY WISH.

THEN ONE DAY, AS THEY WERE FLYING  
TOWARDS MOUNT KAILAS, THE ABODE OF  
SHIVA, THE CHARIOT SUDDENLY STOPPED.



TRY AS HE MIGHT, RAVANA COULD  
NOT GET IT TO MOVE.





ATOP THE MOUNTAIN, AT THAT MOMENT, PARVATI, WHO HAD JUST HAD A TUFF WITH SHIVA, WAS WALKING AWAY IN A HUFF.



SUDDENLY, THE EARTH SHOOK...



...AND HUGE BOULDERS CAME TUMBLING DOWN.



PARVATI LOST HER BALANCE...



...AND ALMOST FELL.



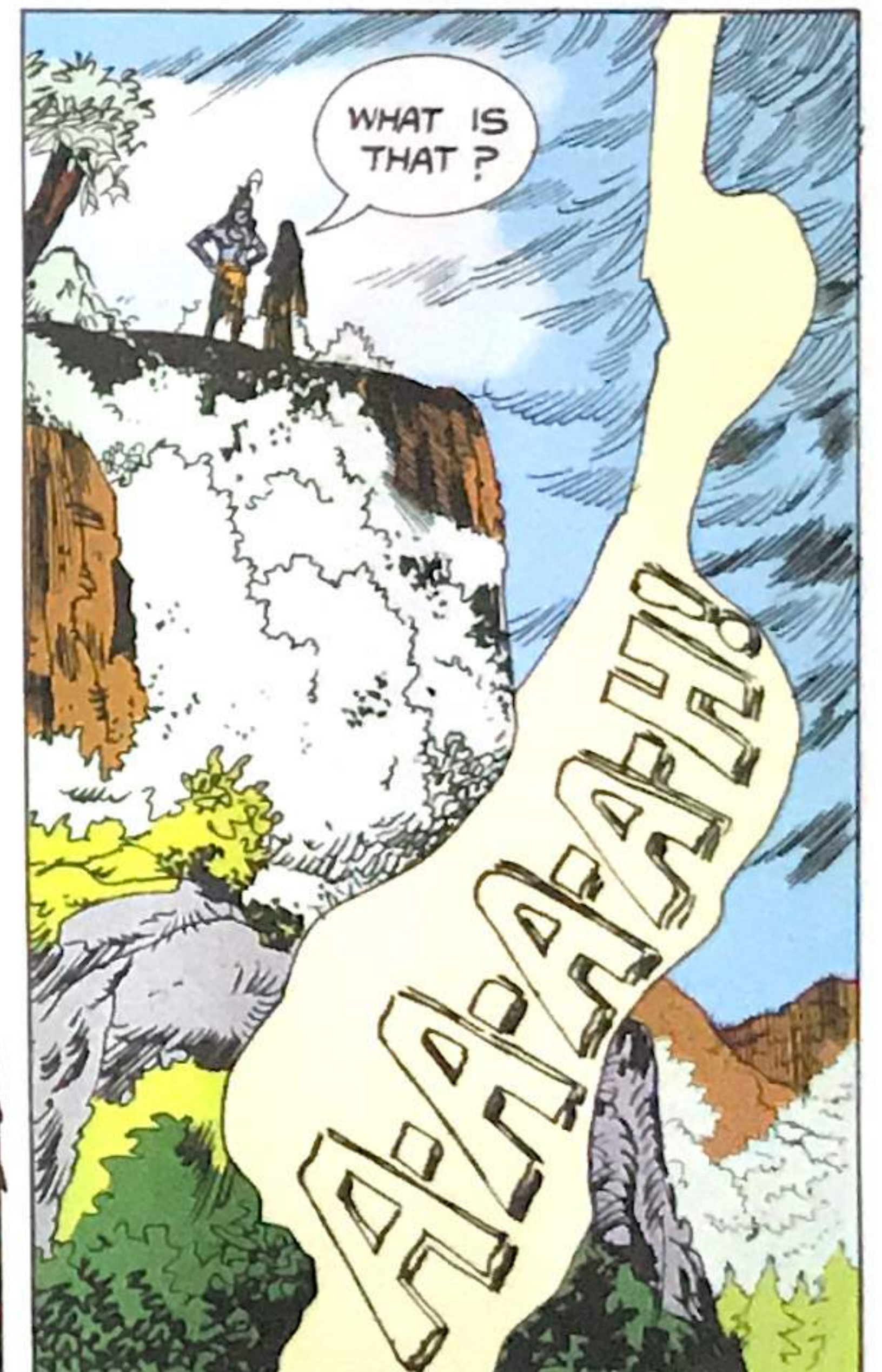
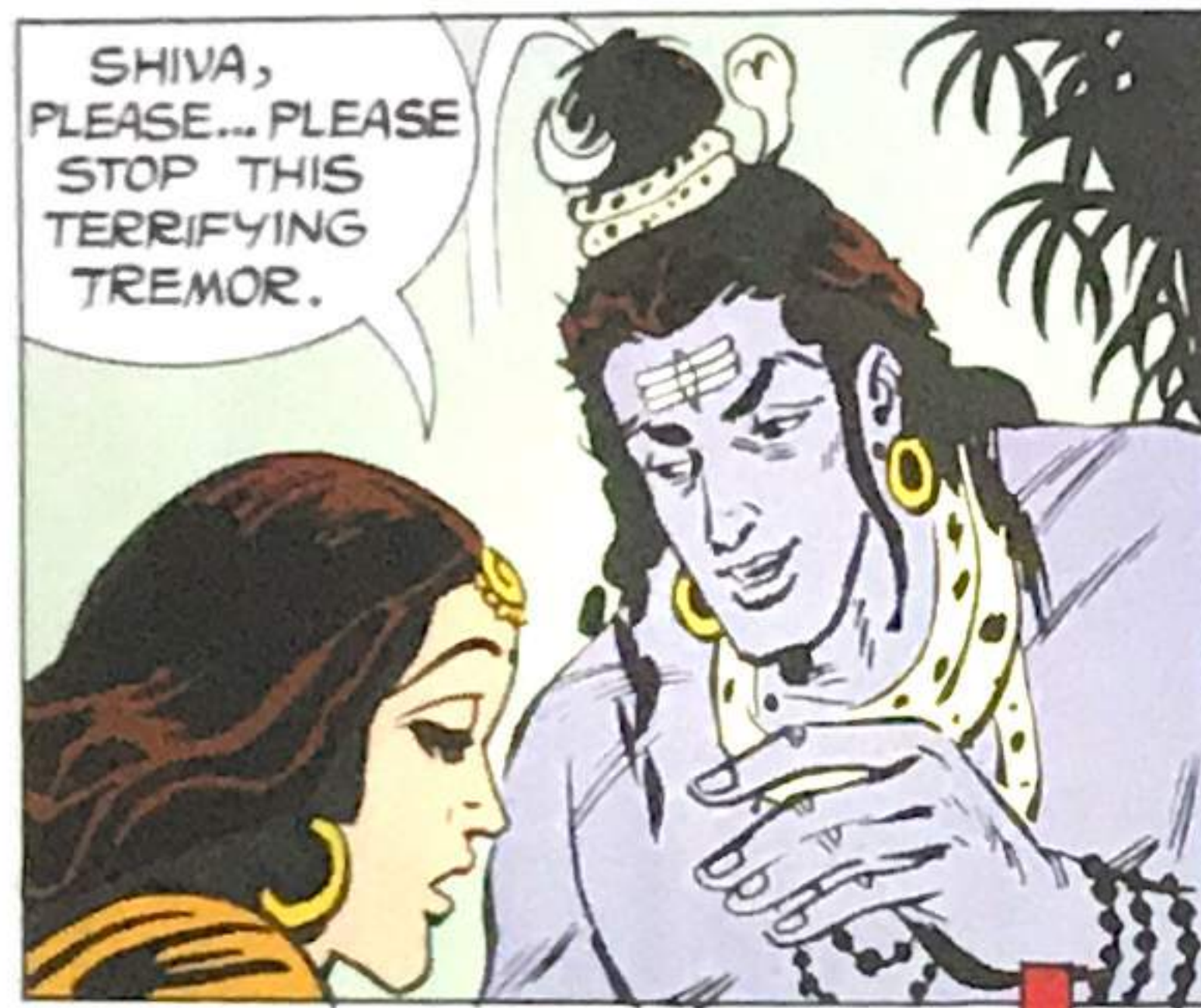
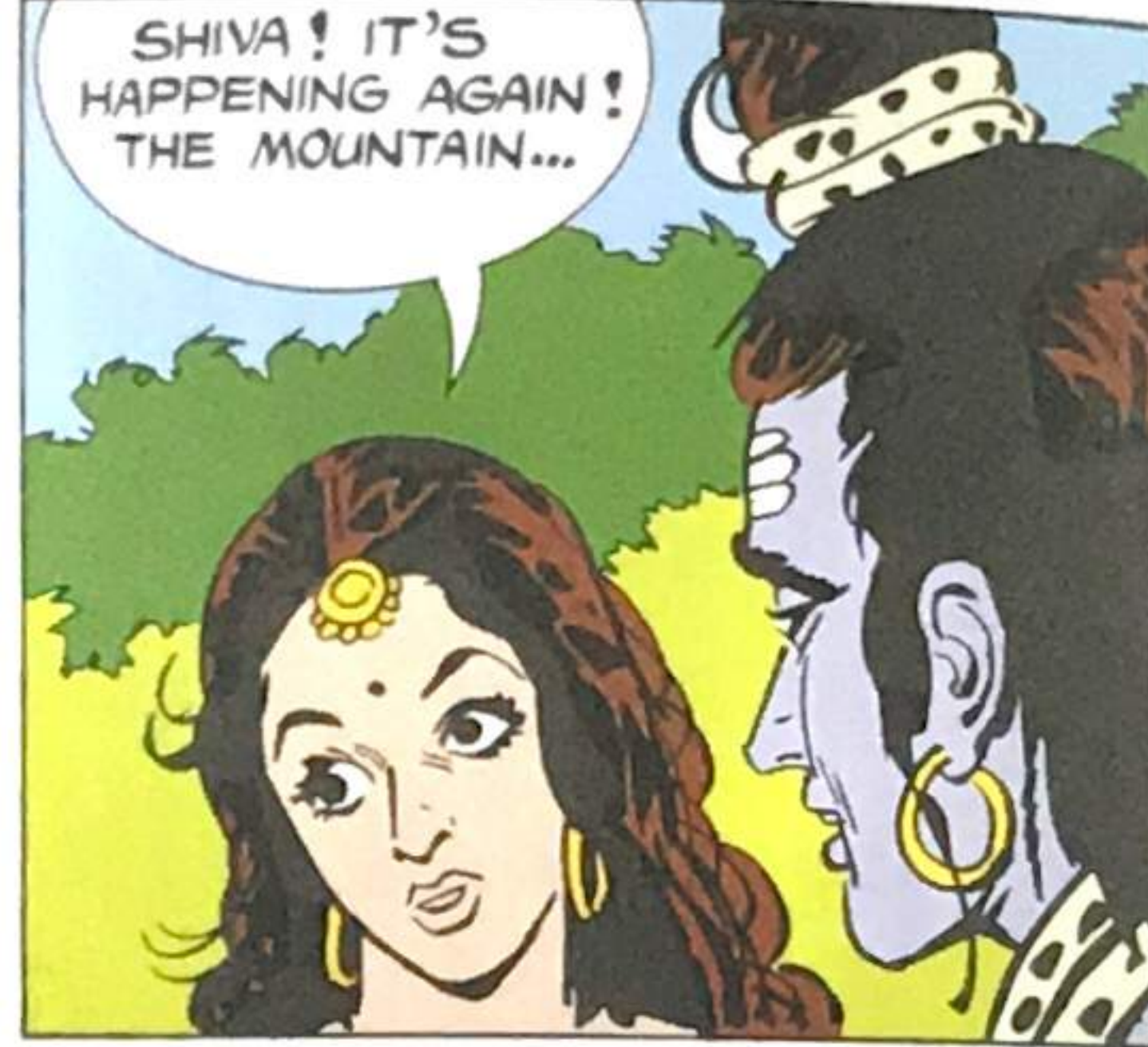
...AND RAN...



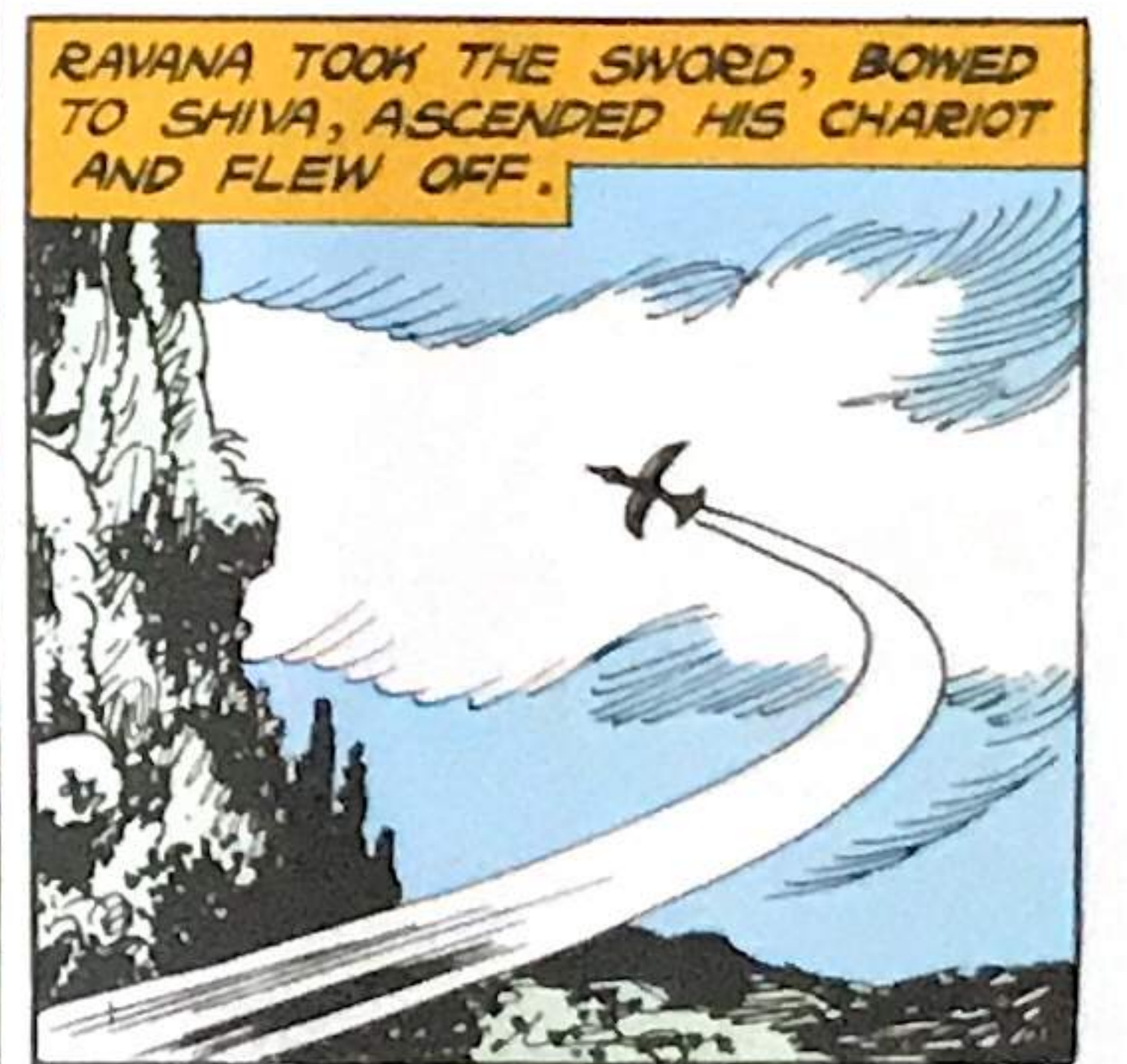
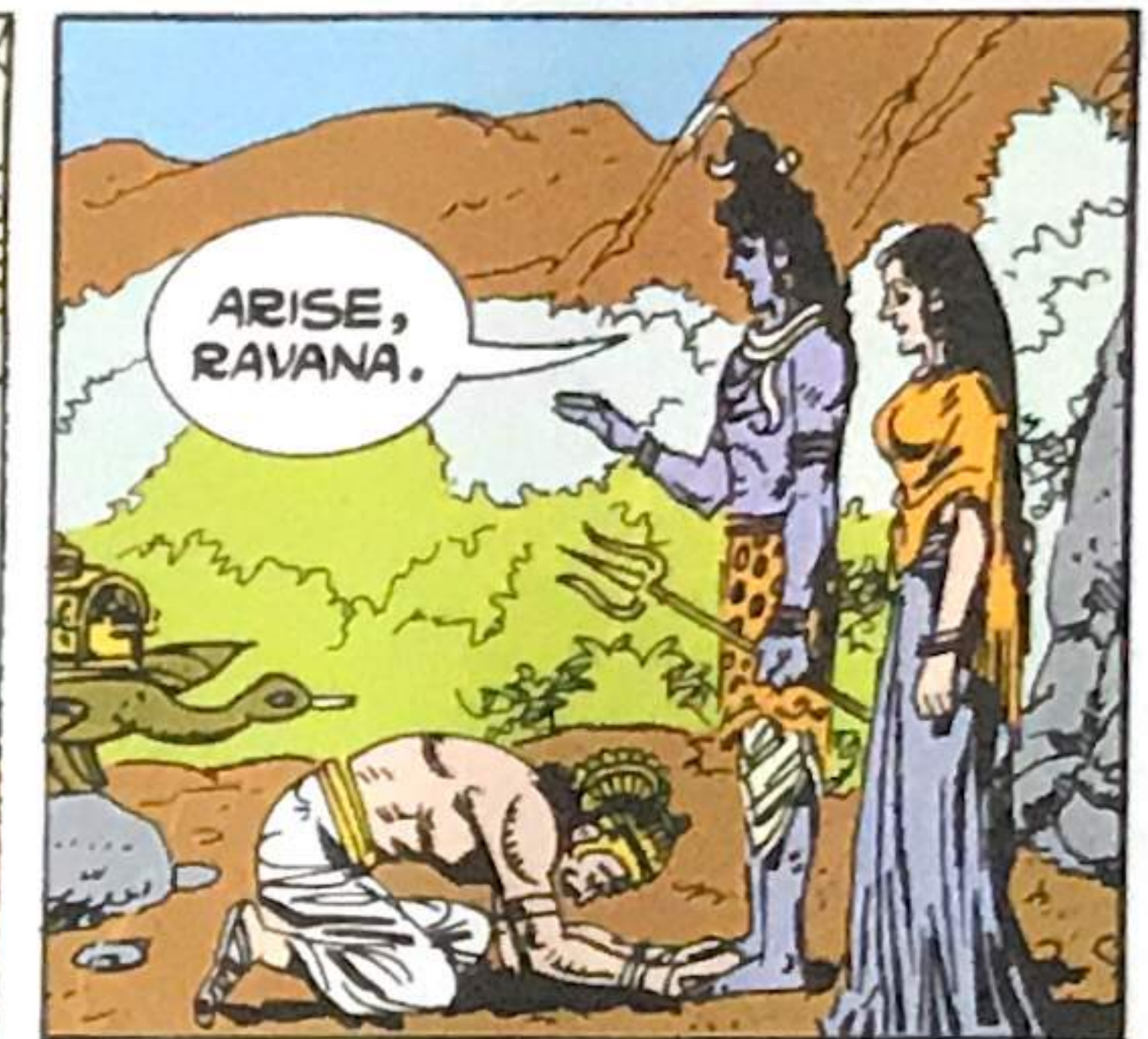
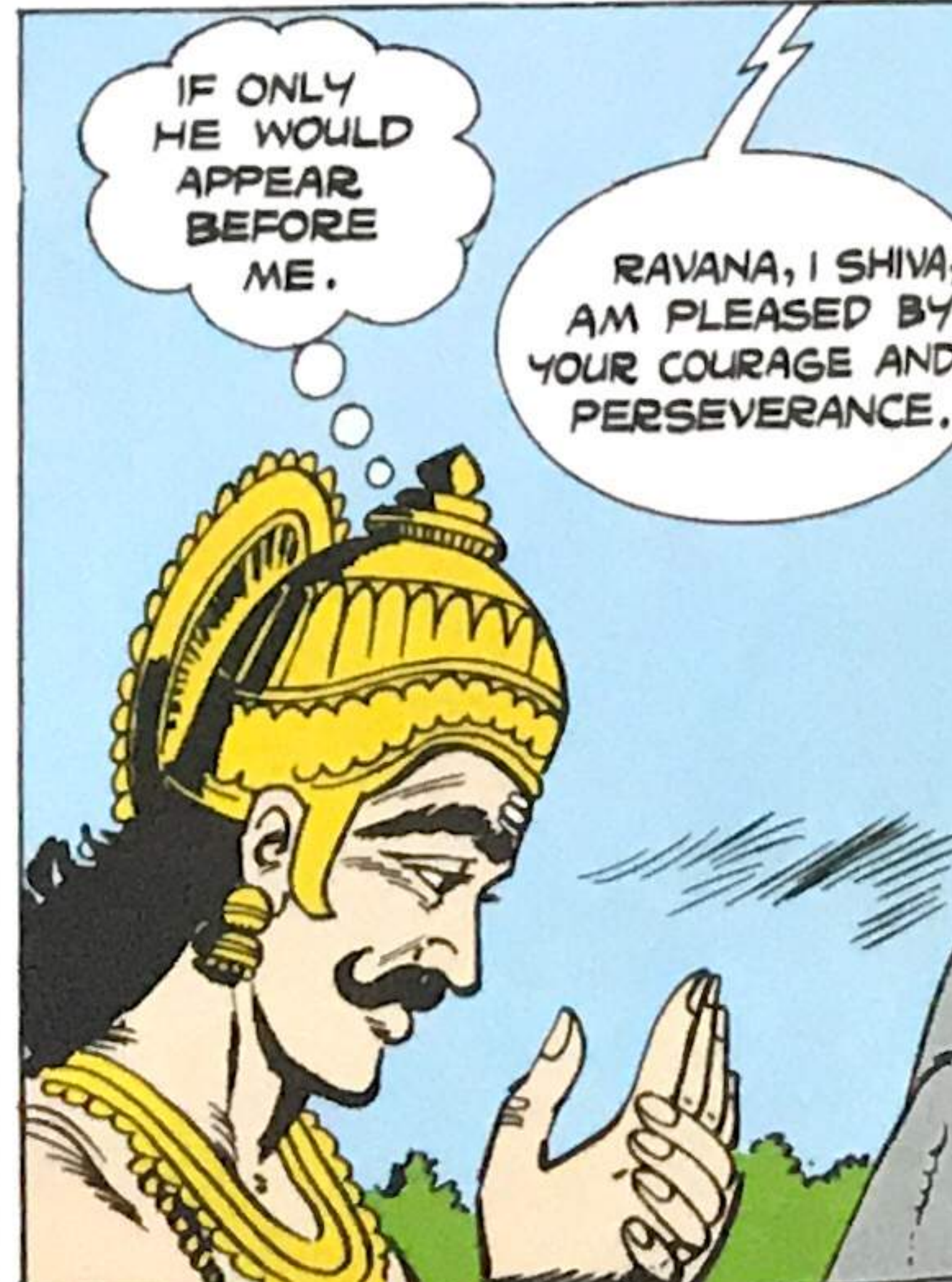
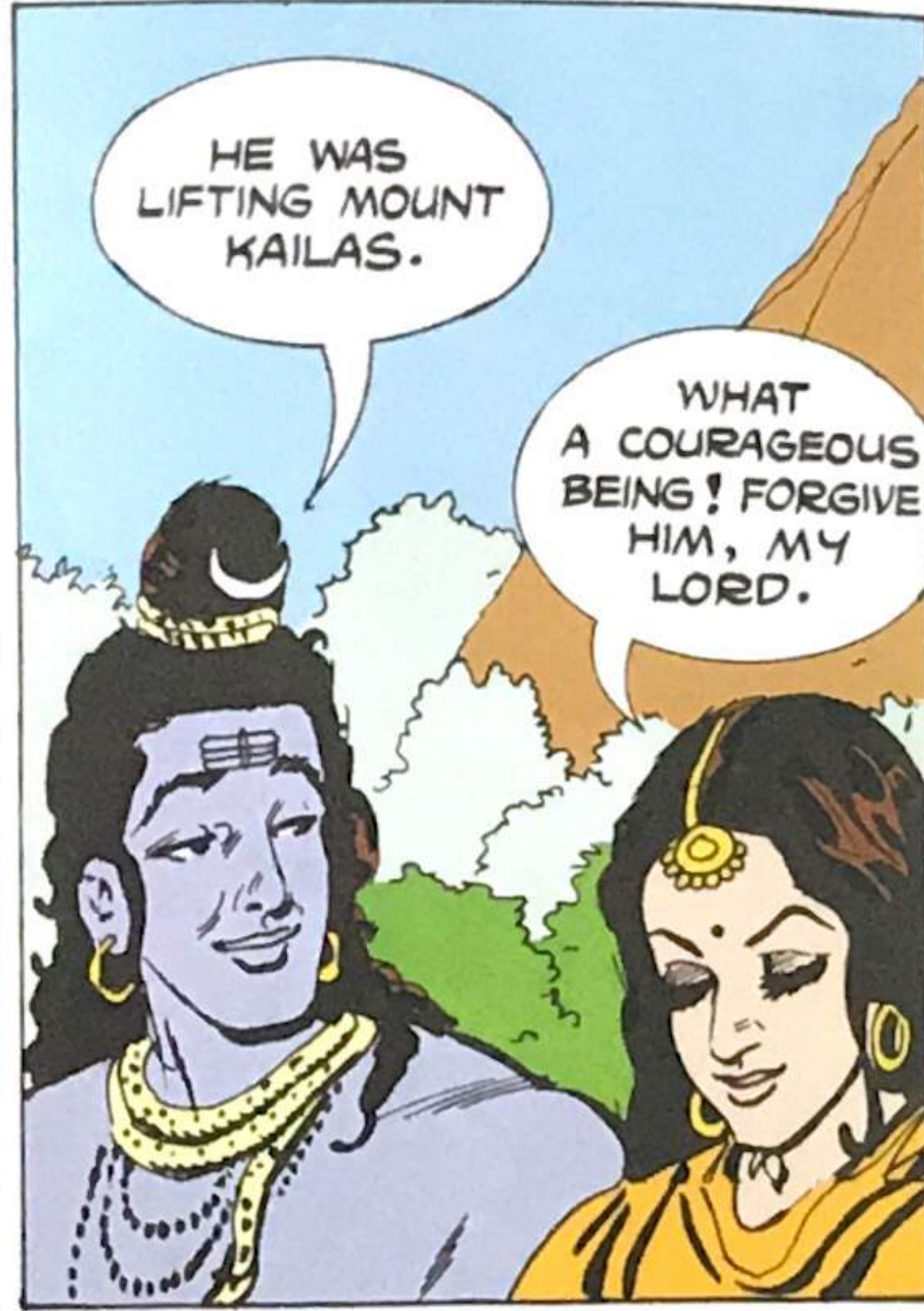
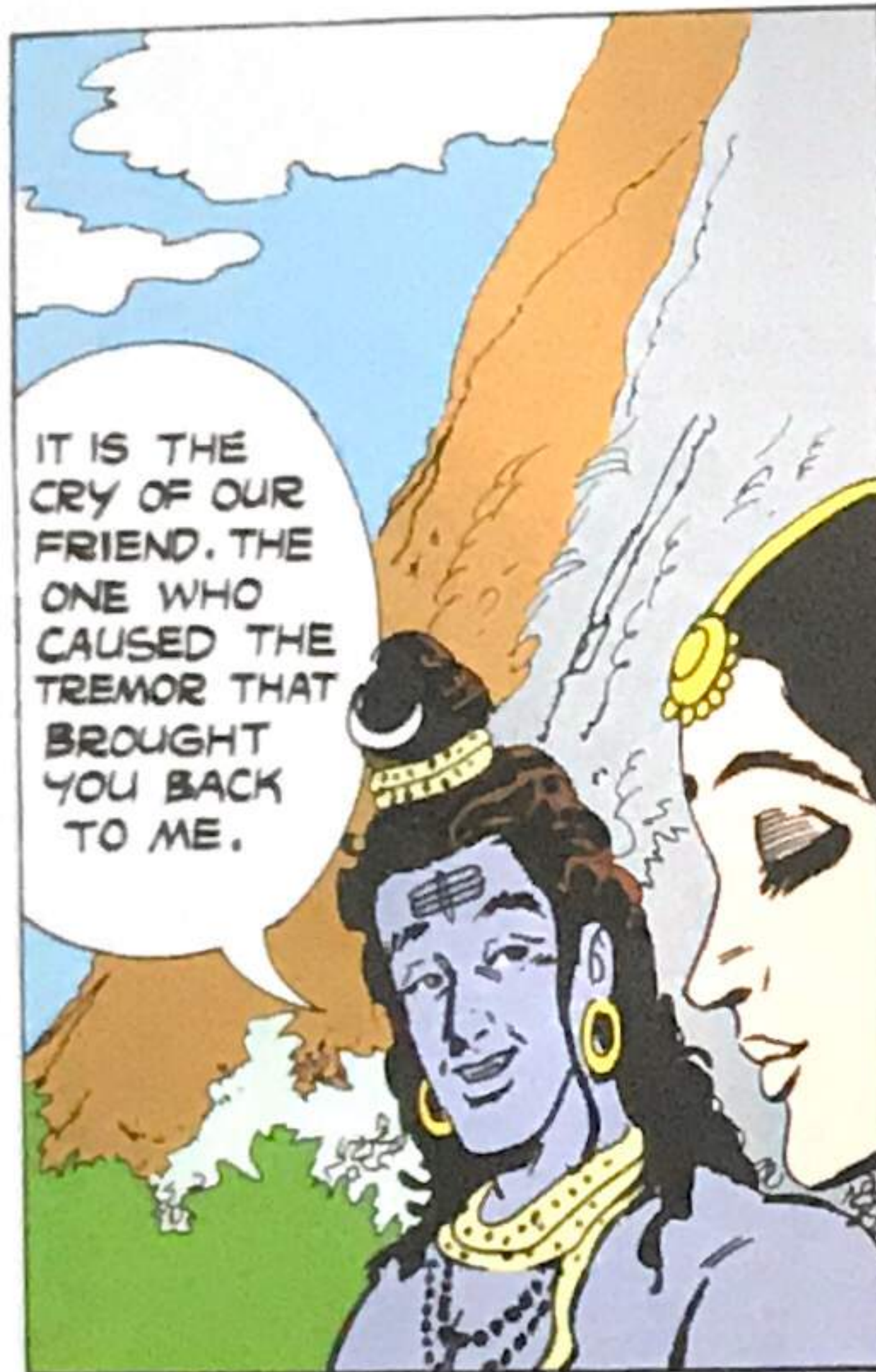
...INTO THE ARMS OF SHIVA.





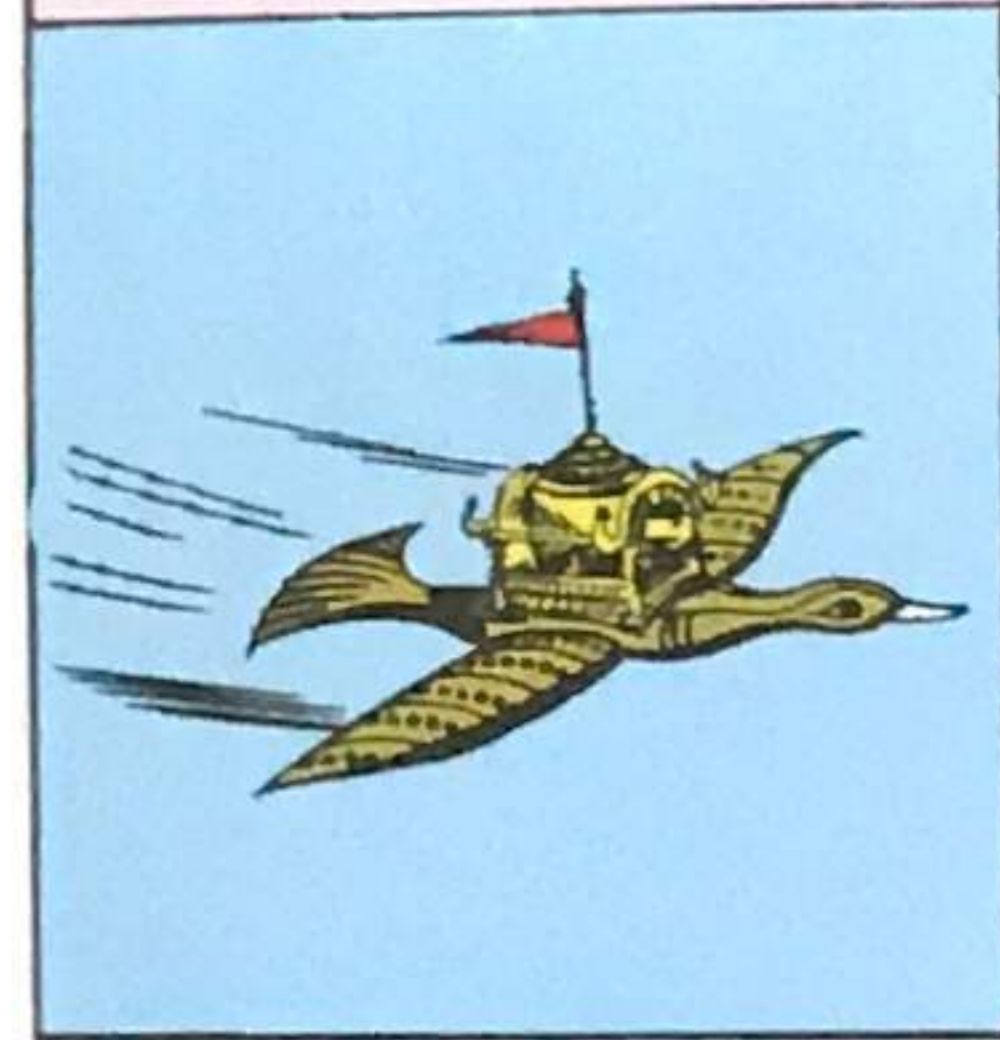




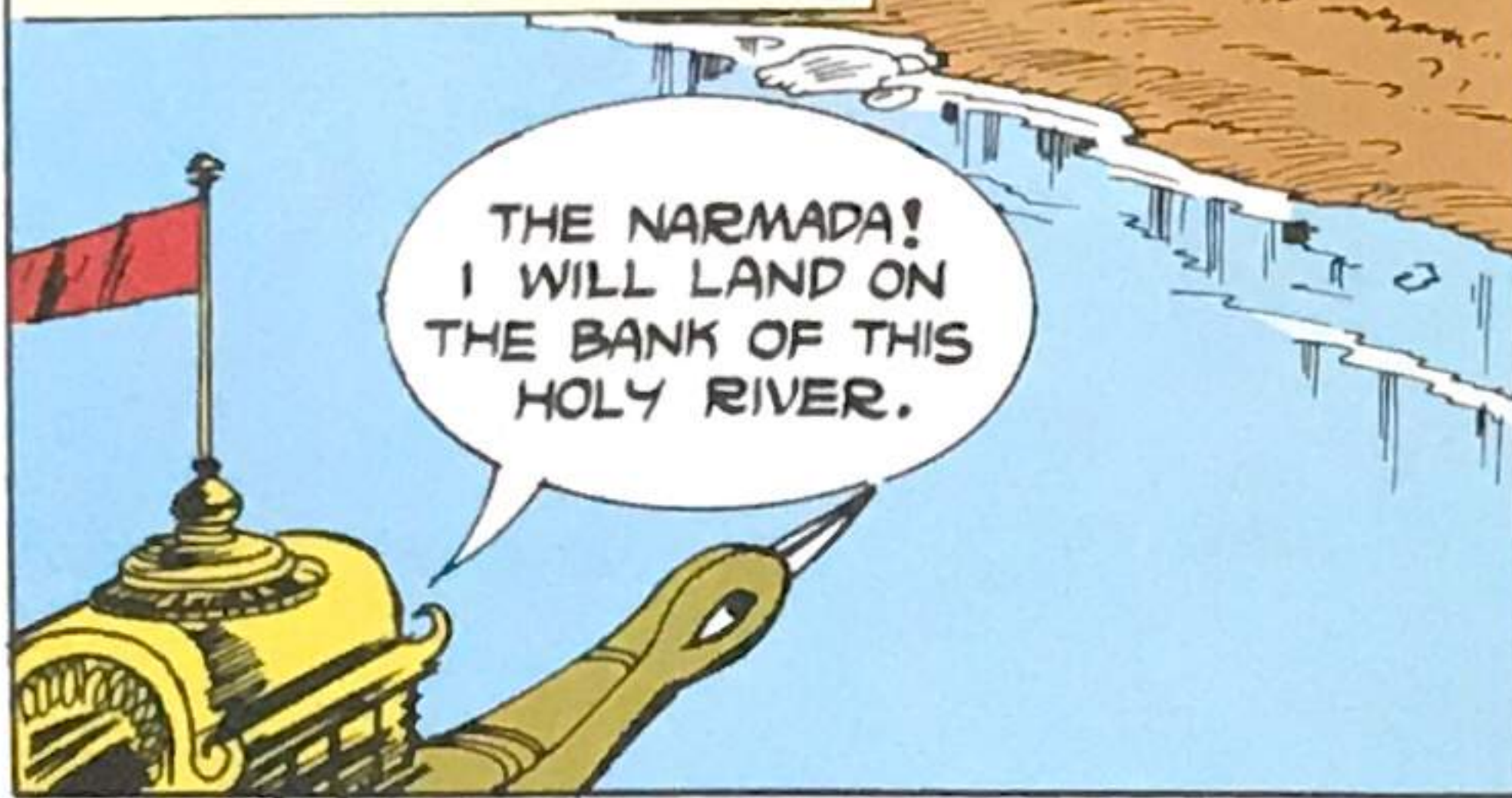




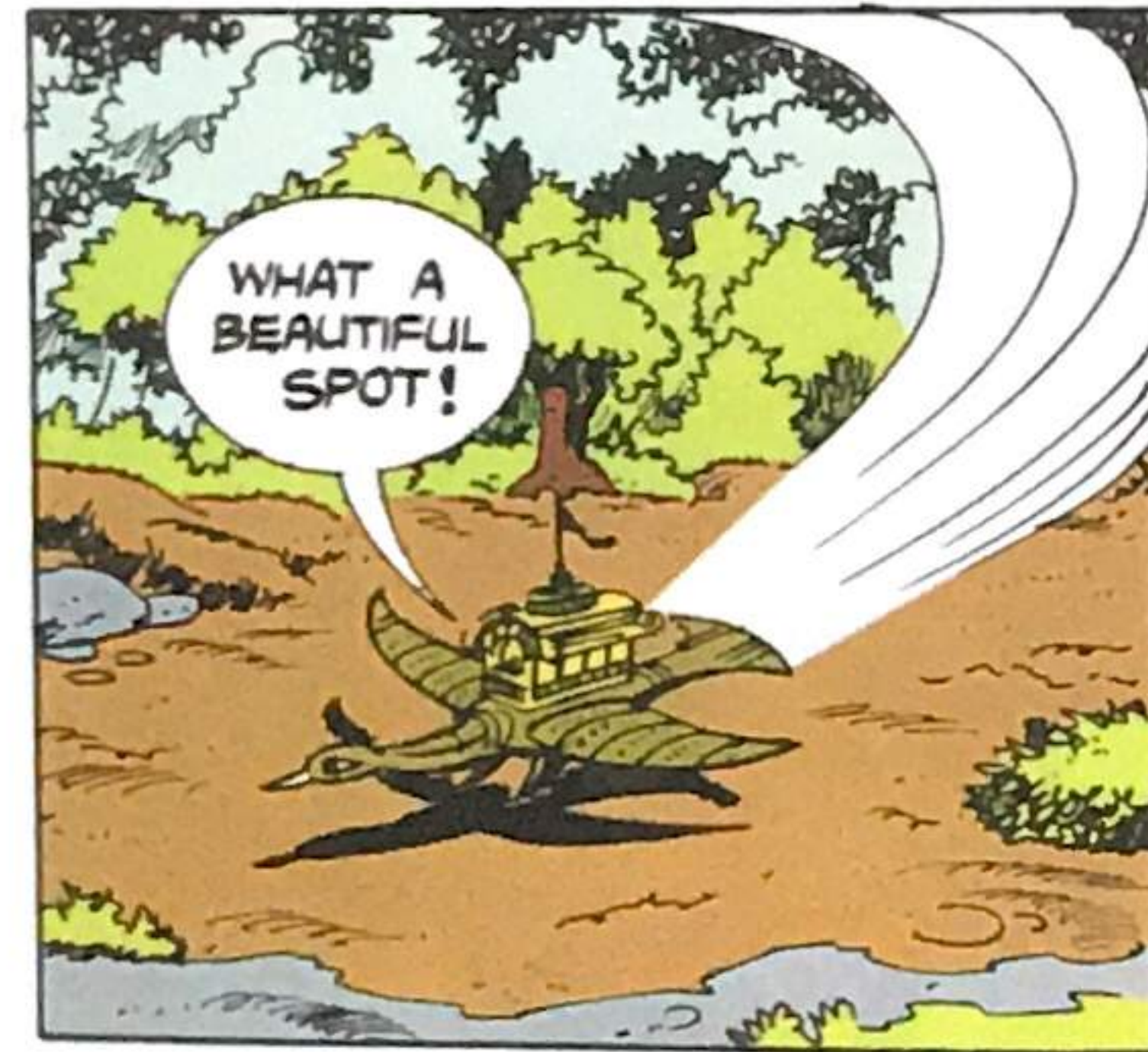
# THE MAHISHMATI EPISODE



ONCE AS RAVANA WAS ROAMING AROUND IN PUSHPAKA, WITH A FEW OF HIS MINISTERS, THEY CAME TO MAHISHMATI, THE KINGDOM OF KARTAVEERYA ARJUNA.



THE NARMADA!  
I WILL LAND ON  
THE BANK OF THIS  
HOLY RIVER.



WHAT A  
BEAUTIFUL  
SPOT!

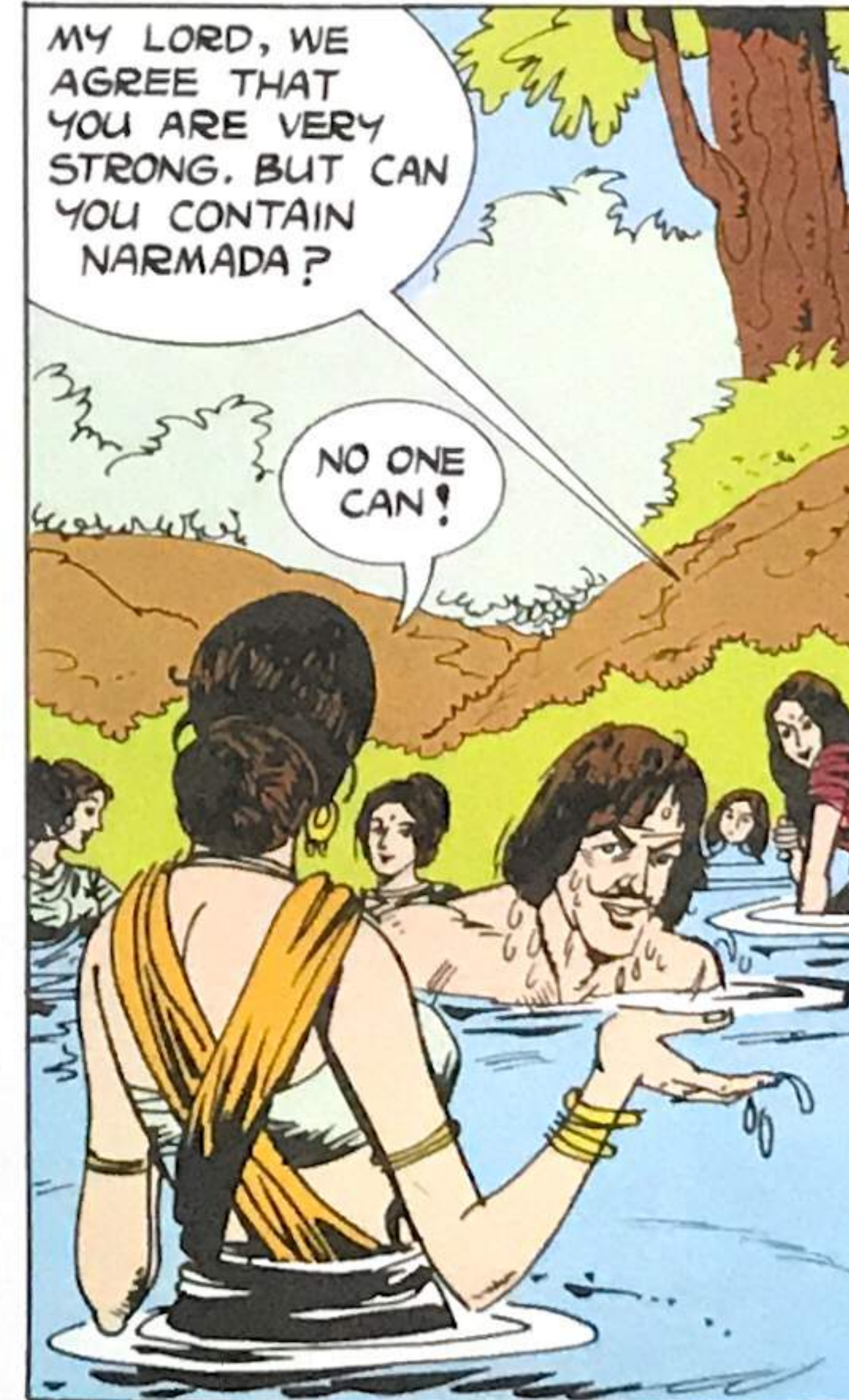
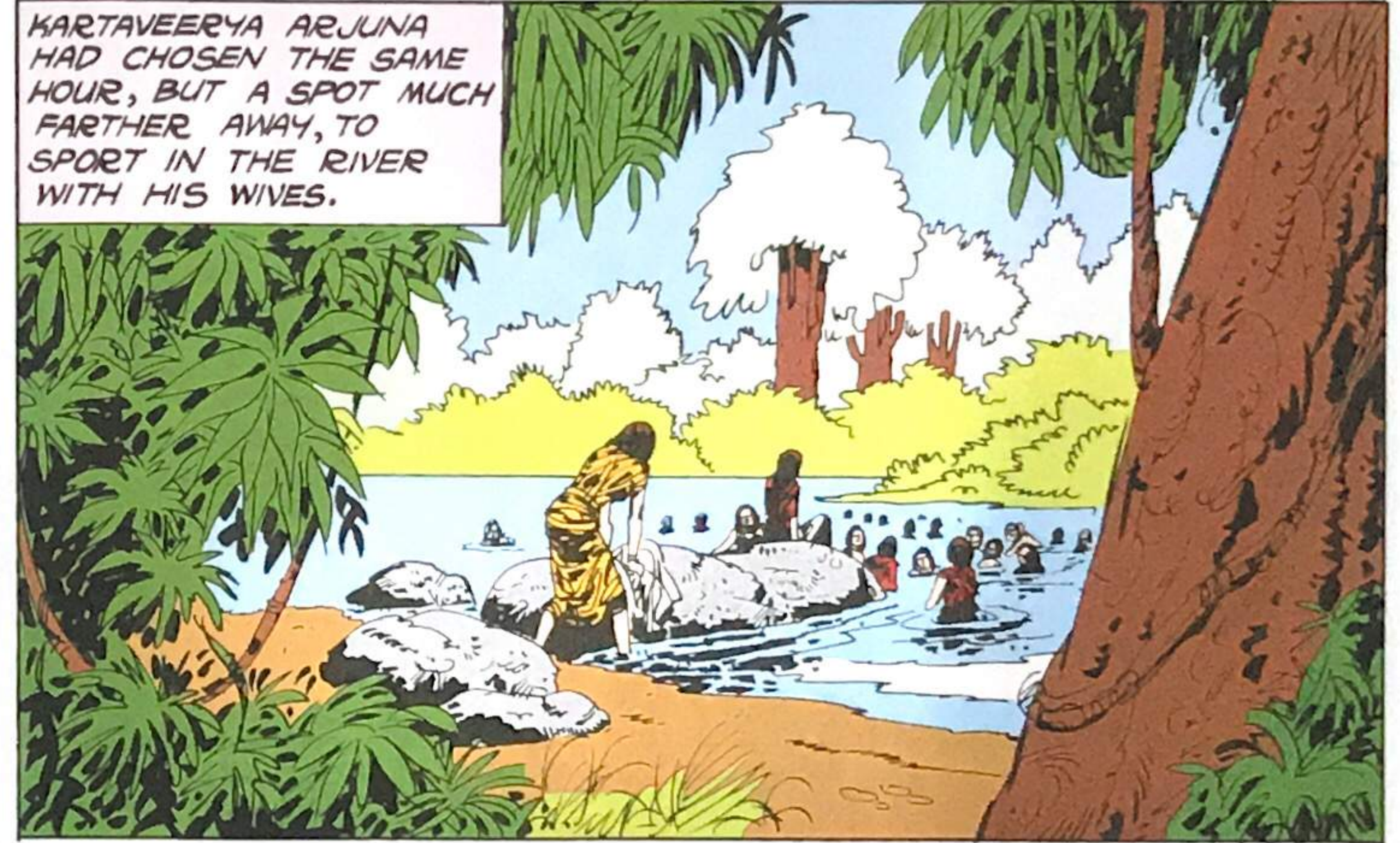


SHALL BATHE IN THE  
RIVER AND WORSHIP  
SHIVA BEFORE WE  
MOVE ON.



SO—

KARTAVEERYA ARJUNA  
HAD CHOSEN THE SAME  
HOUR, BUT A SPOT MUCH  
FARTHER AWAY, TO  
SPORT IN THE RIVER  
WITH HIS WIVES.



MY LORD, WE  
AGREE THAT  
YOU ARE VERY  
STRONG. BUT CAN  
YOU CONTAIN  
NARMADA?

NO ONE  
CAN!

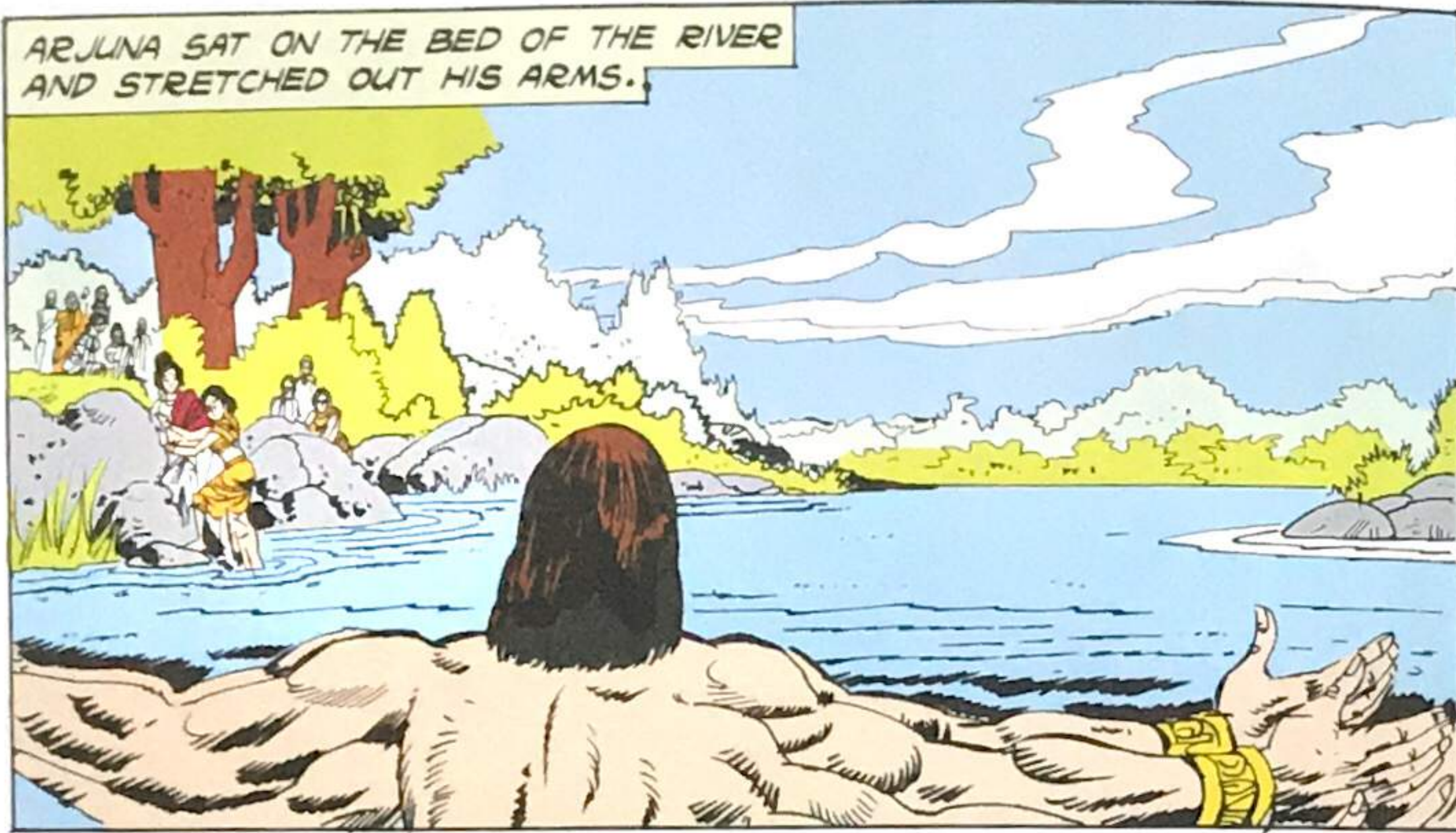


NOT EVEN YOU, THE  
THOUSAND-ARMED  
ARJUNA.

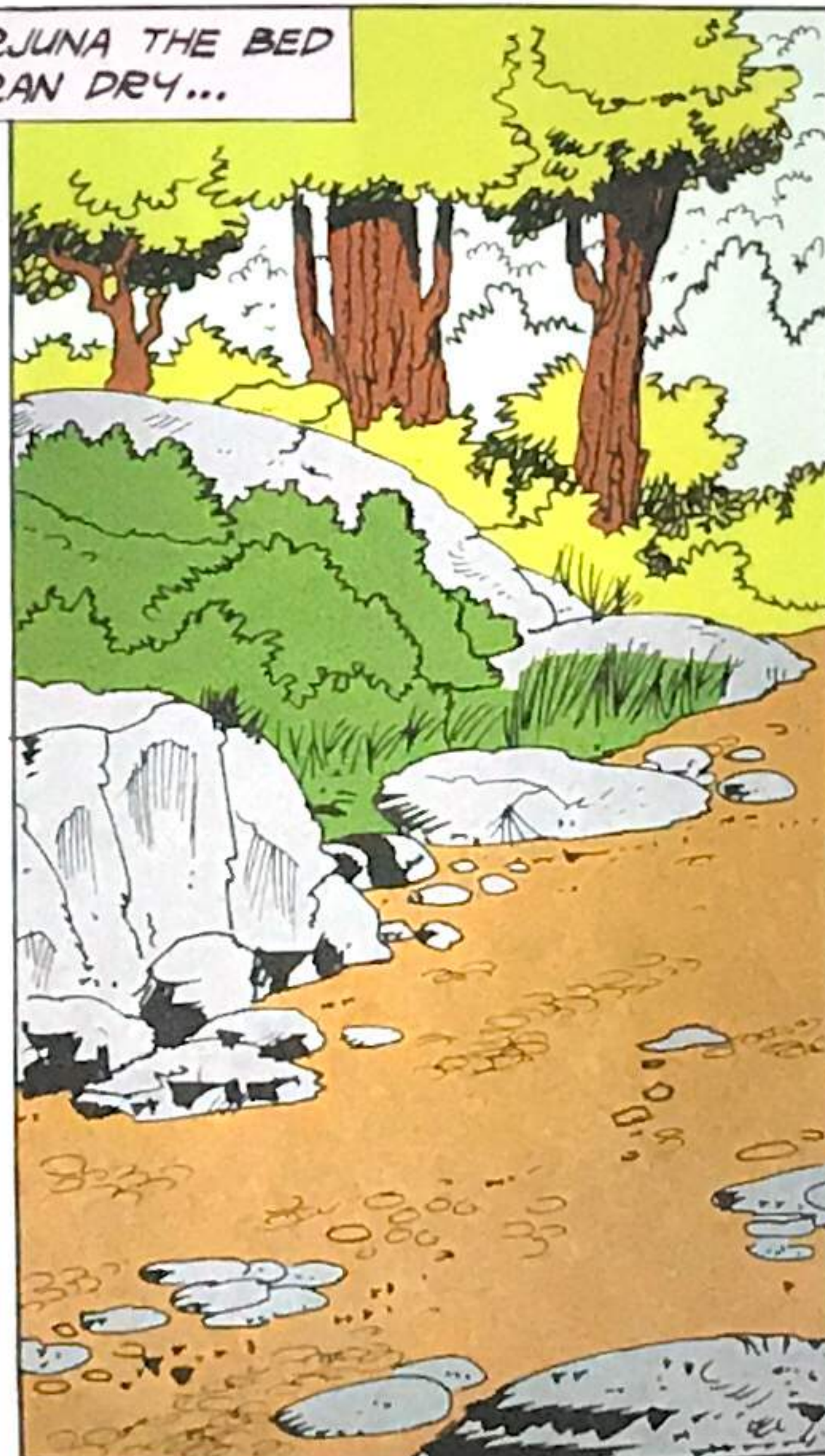
I'LL TAKE UP THE  
CHALLENGE!



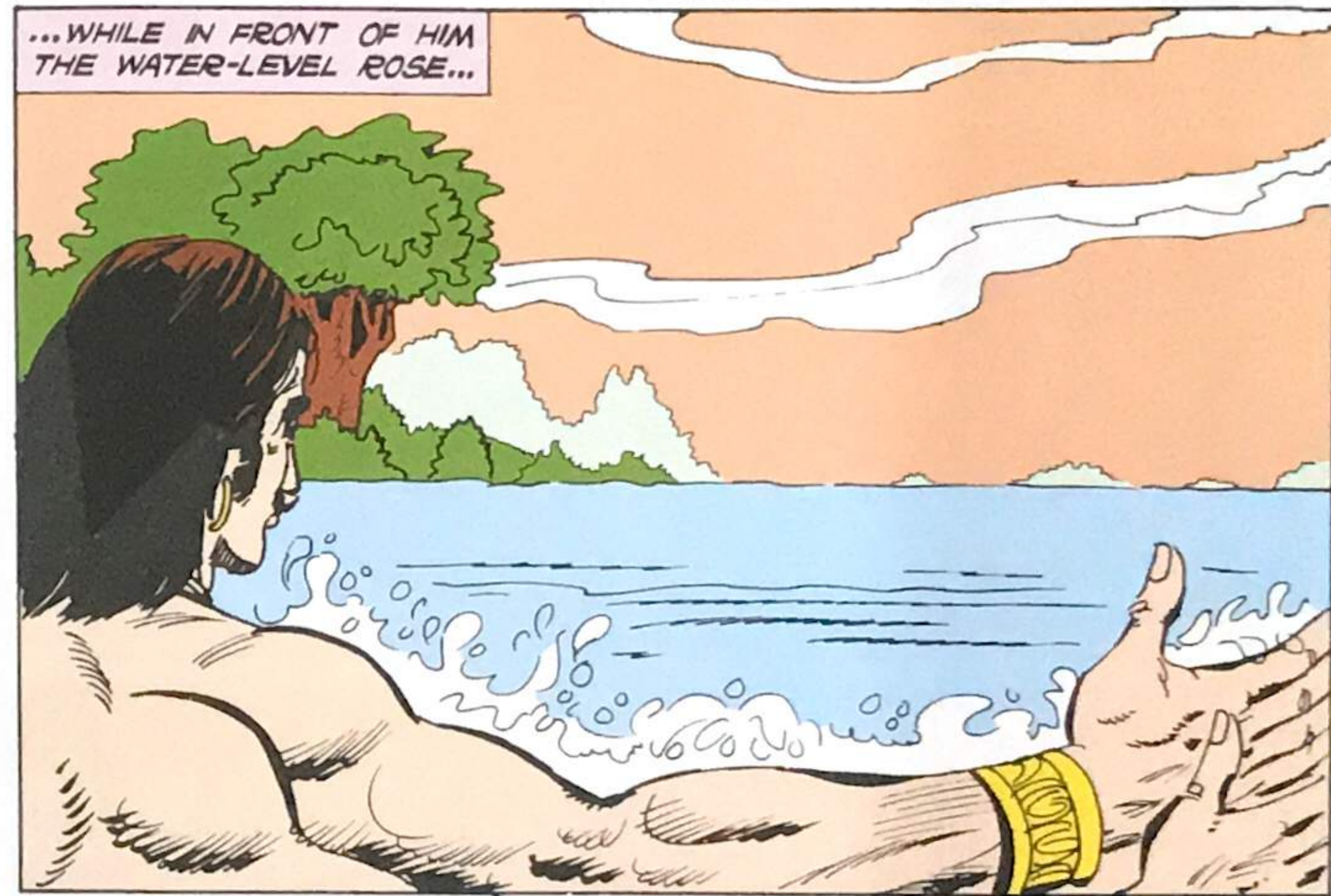
ARJUNA SAT ON THE BED OF THE RIVER  
AND STRETCHED OUT HIS ARMS.



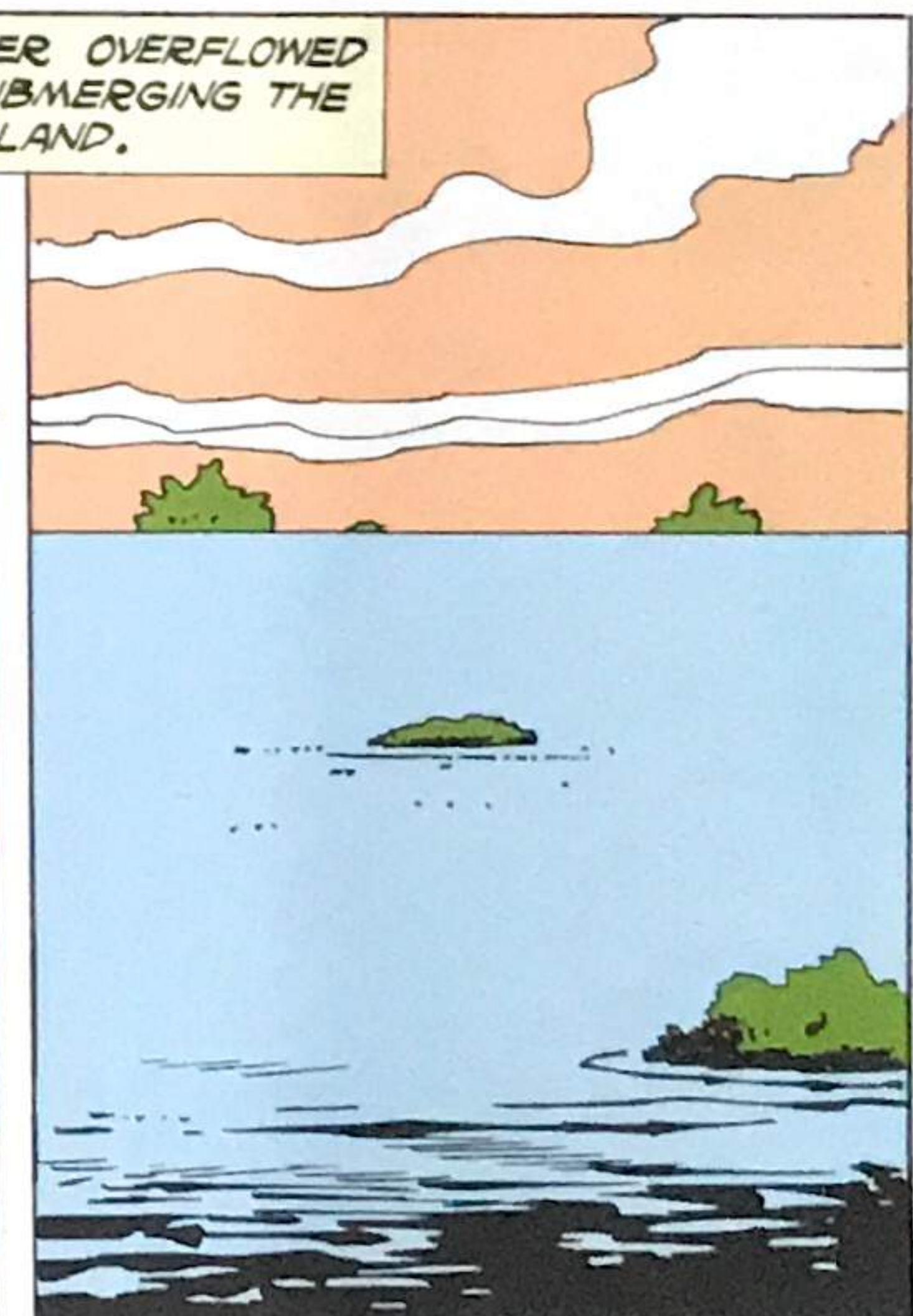
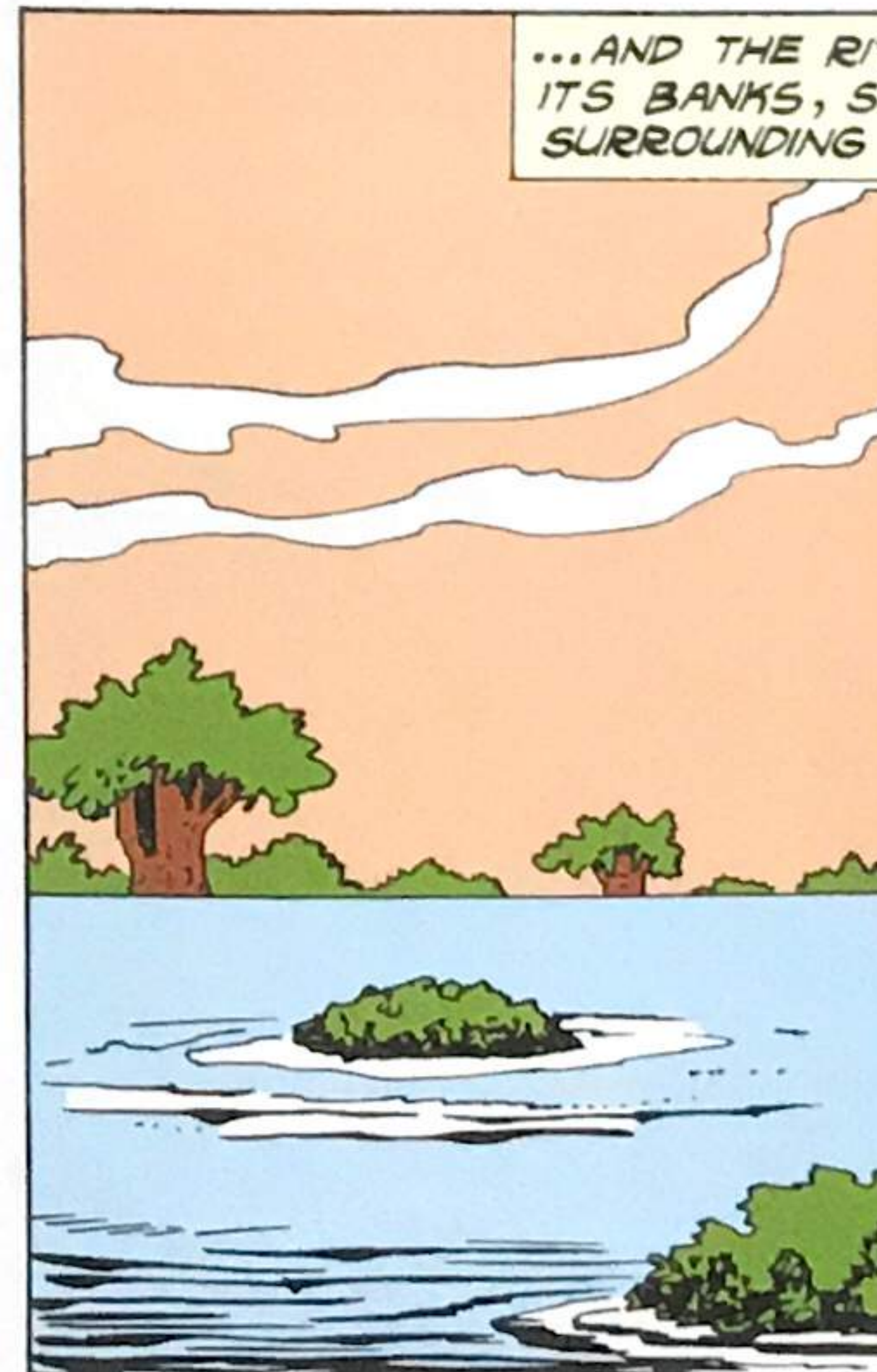
SOON, BEHIND ARJUNA THE BED  
OF THE RIVER RAN DRY...



...WHILE IN FRONT OF HIM  
THE WATER-LEVEL ROSE...



...AND THE RIVER OVERFLOWED  
ITS BANKS, SUBMERGING THE  
SURROUNDING LAND.

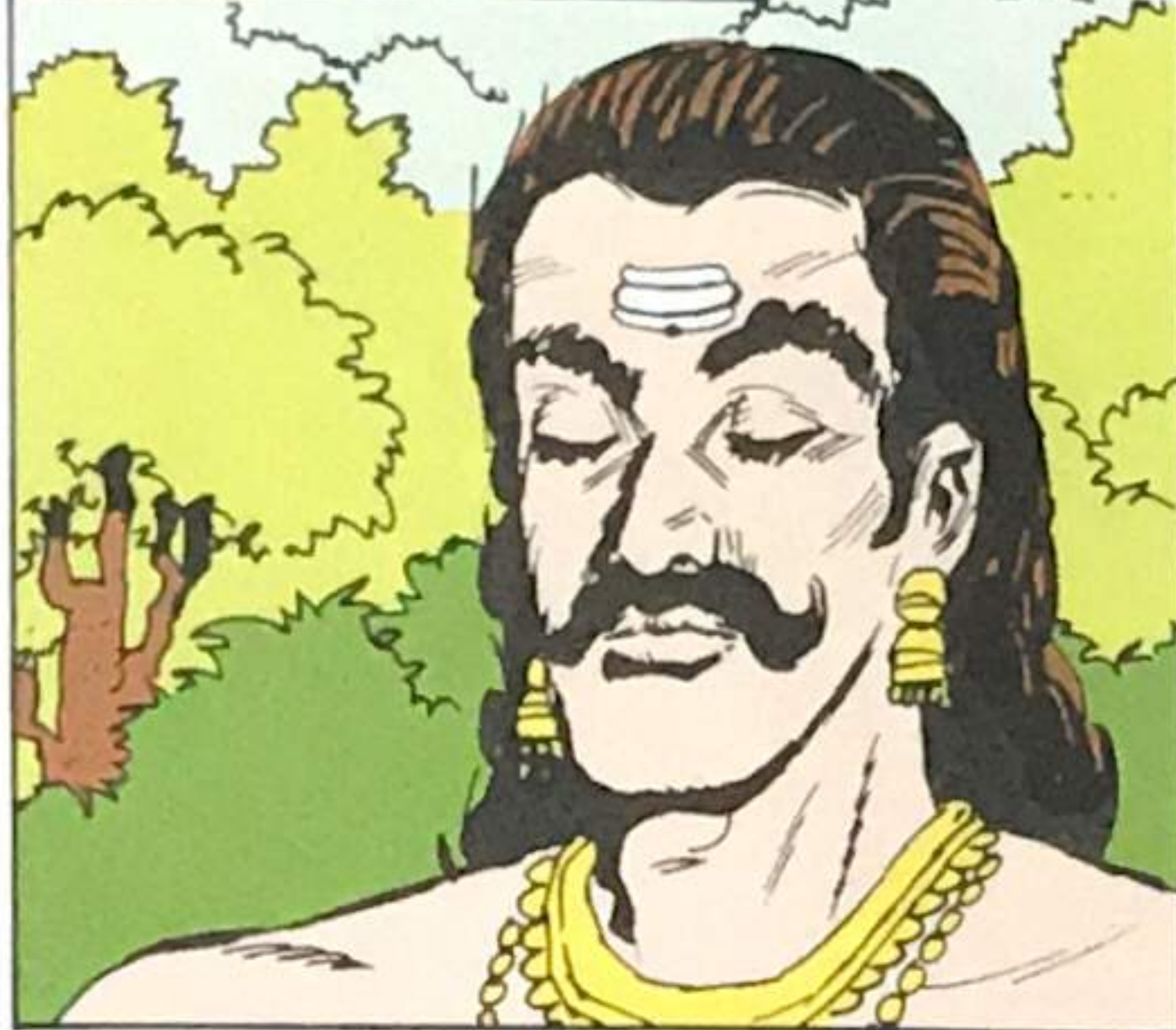




FURTHER UPSTREAM, MEANWHILE, RAVANA HAD COME OUT OF THE WATER, MADE A LINGA\* OUT OF SAND...



...AND SAT DOWN TO PRAY WITH HIS MINISTERS KEEPING VIGIL.



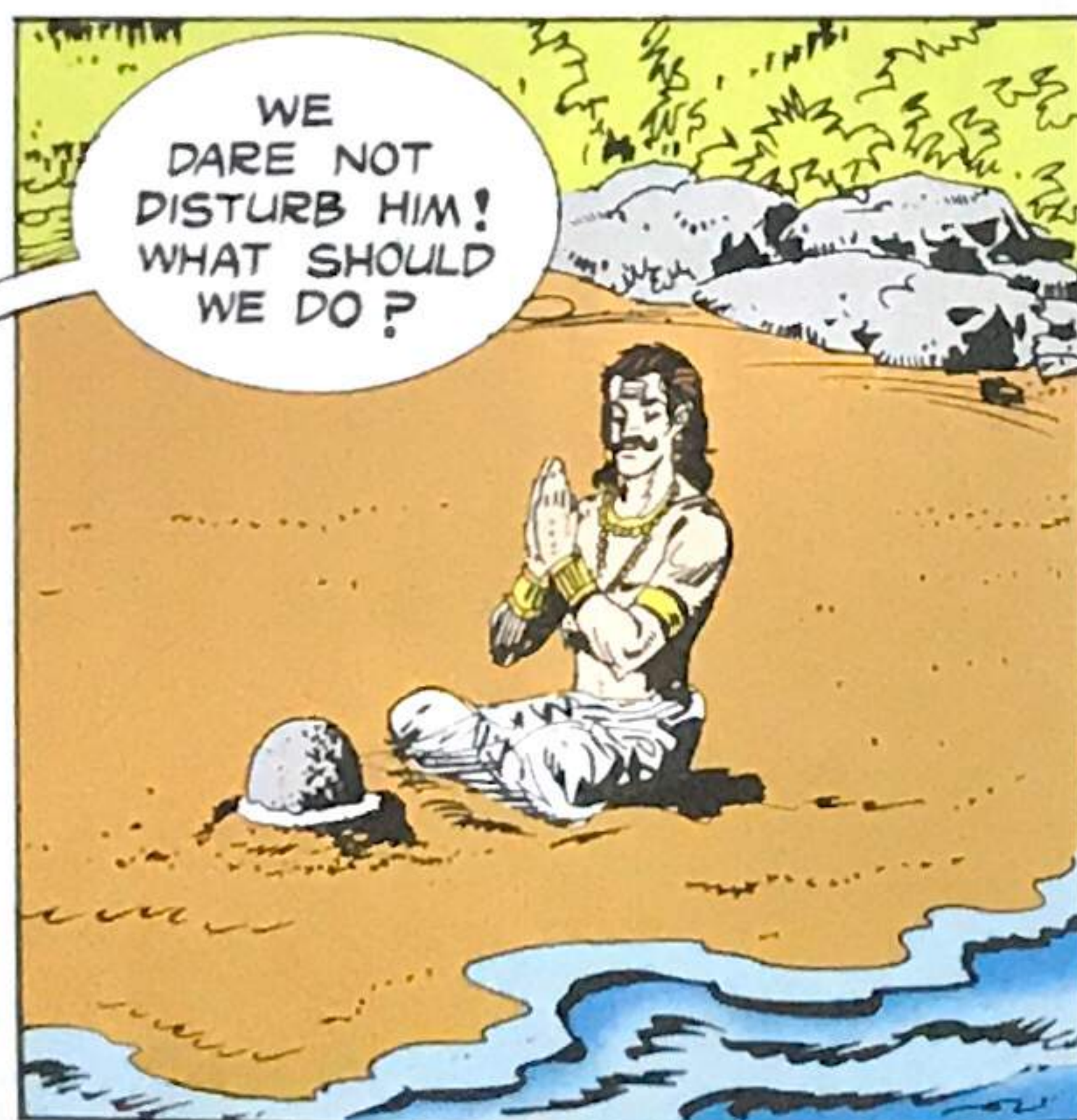
WATCH THE RIVER. IT'S COMING CLOSER TO US!



IT IS IN FLOOD! AND THE MASTER IS MEDITATING!



WE DARE NOT DISTURB HIM! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?



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# RAVANA THE MIGHTY

Script: Swarn Khandpur  
Illustrated by: S.K. Parab



RAVANA, THE RAKSHASA KING OF LANKA, WAS A MIGHTY BEING. HIS STRENGTH WAS SO GREAT THAT HE COULD AGITATE THE SEAS AND SPLIT THE PEAKS OF MOUNTAINS.

ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF LANKA, RAMA WHO WAS SEEING HIM FOR THE FIRST TIME, EXCLAIMED, "AH! WHAT GLORY, WHAT EXCEEDING MAJESTY IS RAVANA'S! AS ONE CANNOT GAZE ON THE SUN, NEITHER CAN THE EYE REST ON HIM, SUCH IS THE BLINDING POWER OF HIS MAGNIFICENCE! NEITHER DEVAS, DANAVAS NOR HEROES POSSESS A BODY EQUAL TO HIS!"

RAMA AND RAVANA WERE SKILLED WARRIORS AND BOTH BROUGHT EXCEPTIONAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE SCIENCE OF ARMS TO THE FIGHT. WATCHING THE DREADFUL COMBAT BETWEEN THE TWO, THE DEVAS, THE GANDHARVAS, THE RISHIS, THE DANAVAS AND THE DAITYAS CRIED OUT, "AS THE SKY IS COMPARABLE ONLY WITH THE SKY AND THE OCEAN ONLY WITH THE OCEAN, SO IS THIS FIGHT BETWEEN RAMA AND RAVANA!"

RAMA'S VICTORY OVER RAVANA IS COMMEMORATED IN THE NORTH DURING THE FESTIVAL OF DUSSEHRA. FOR NINE DAYS RAMLILA IS ENACTED AND ON THE TENTH DAY, DUSSEHRA WHICH MARKS THE DAY OF VICTORY, AN EFFIGY OF RAVANA IS BURNT.



THE HUGE EFFIGY IS ERECTED ON A MIGHTY FRAMEWORK OF BAMBOOS. IT IS THEN FILLED WITH FIRE-CRACKERS AND COVERED ON THE OUTSIDE WITH COLOURED PAPERS.

ALTHOUGH RAVANA IS DESCRIBED IN THE RAMAYANA AS HAVING TEN HEADS, IN FOLK ART HE IS OFTEN SHOWN WITH ONLY NINE.

ON DUSSEHRA DAY, WHEN THE EFFIGY CATCHES FIRE, IT BLAZES IN FIERY SPLENDOR TILL THE MIGHTY RAVANA FALLS.





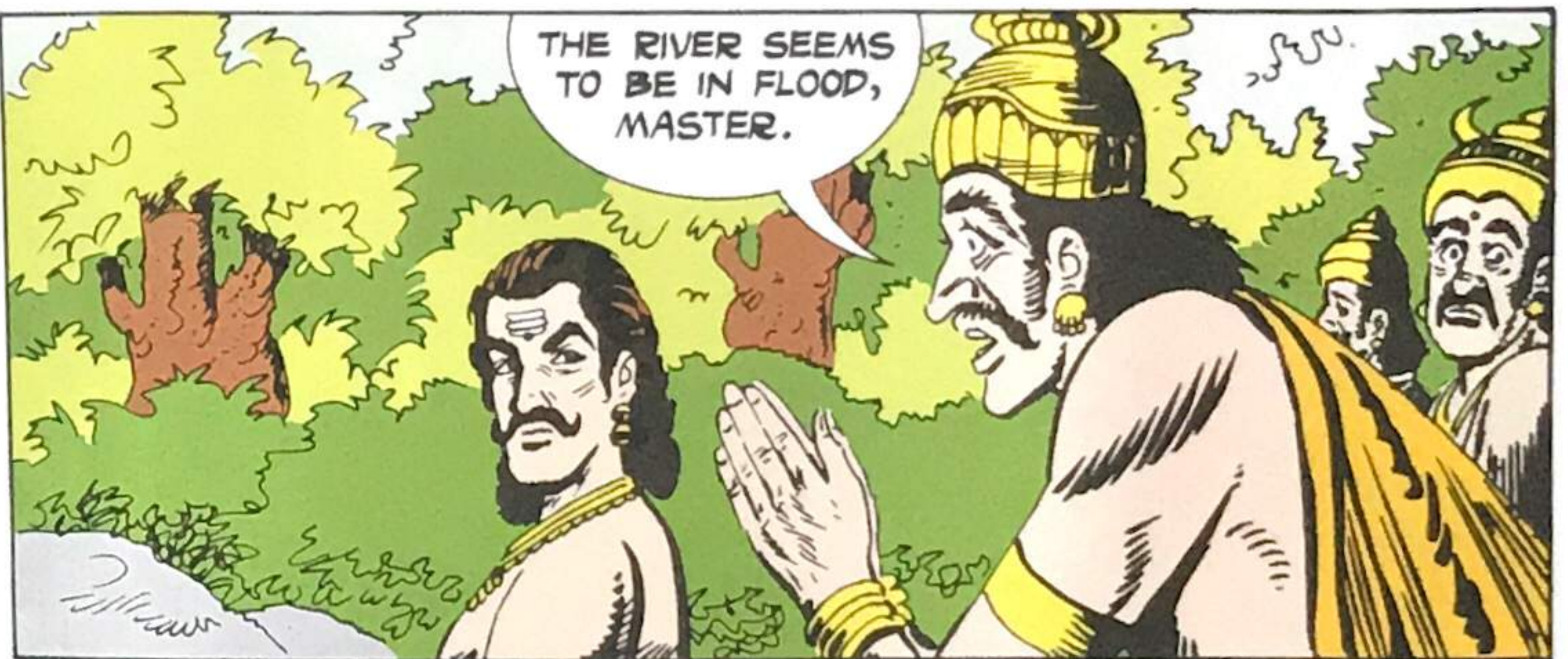
THE MINISTERS WATCHED  
HELPLESSLY AS THE WATER  
GRADUALLY NEARED RAVANA.



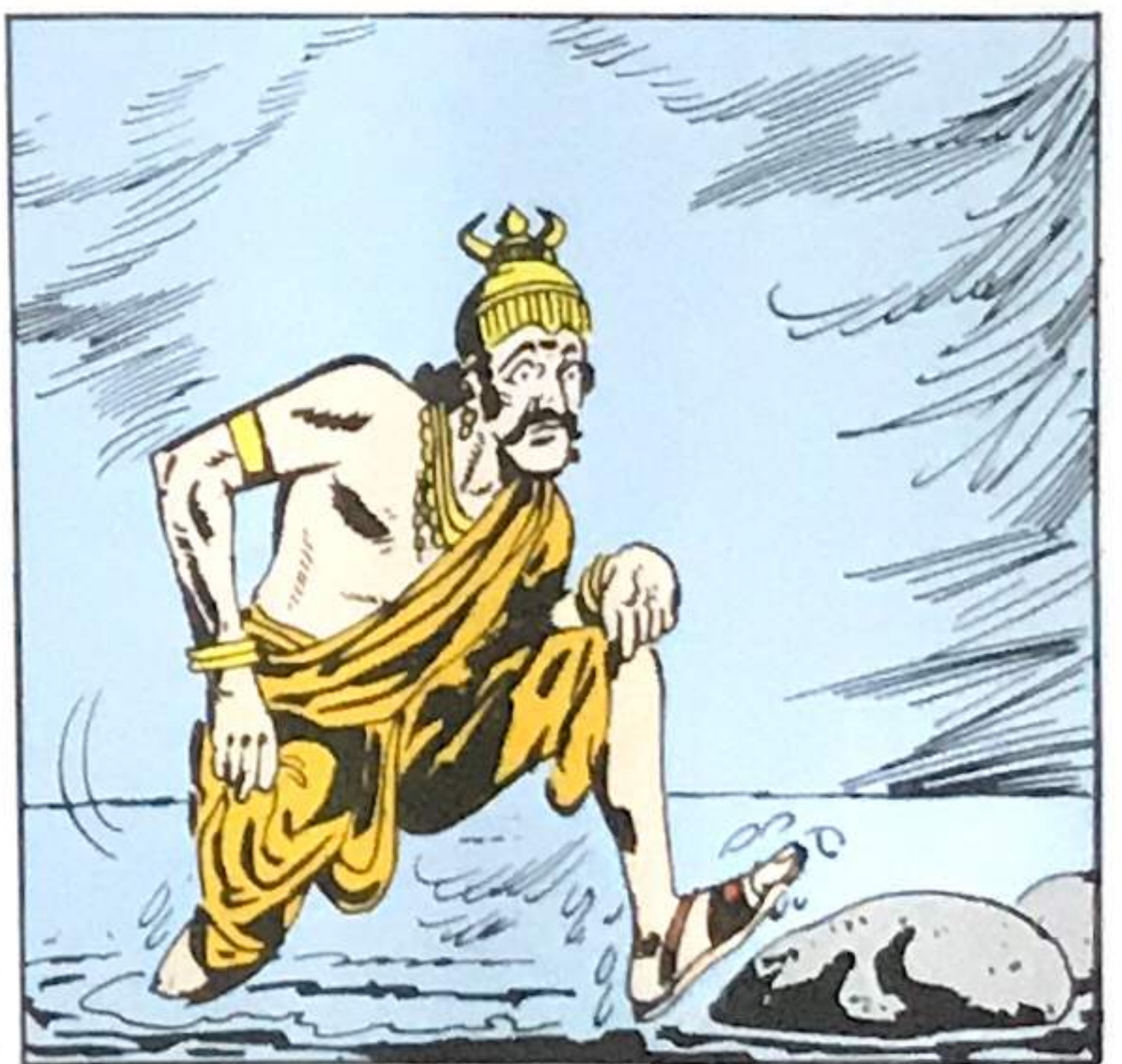
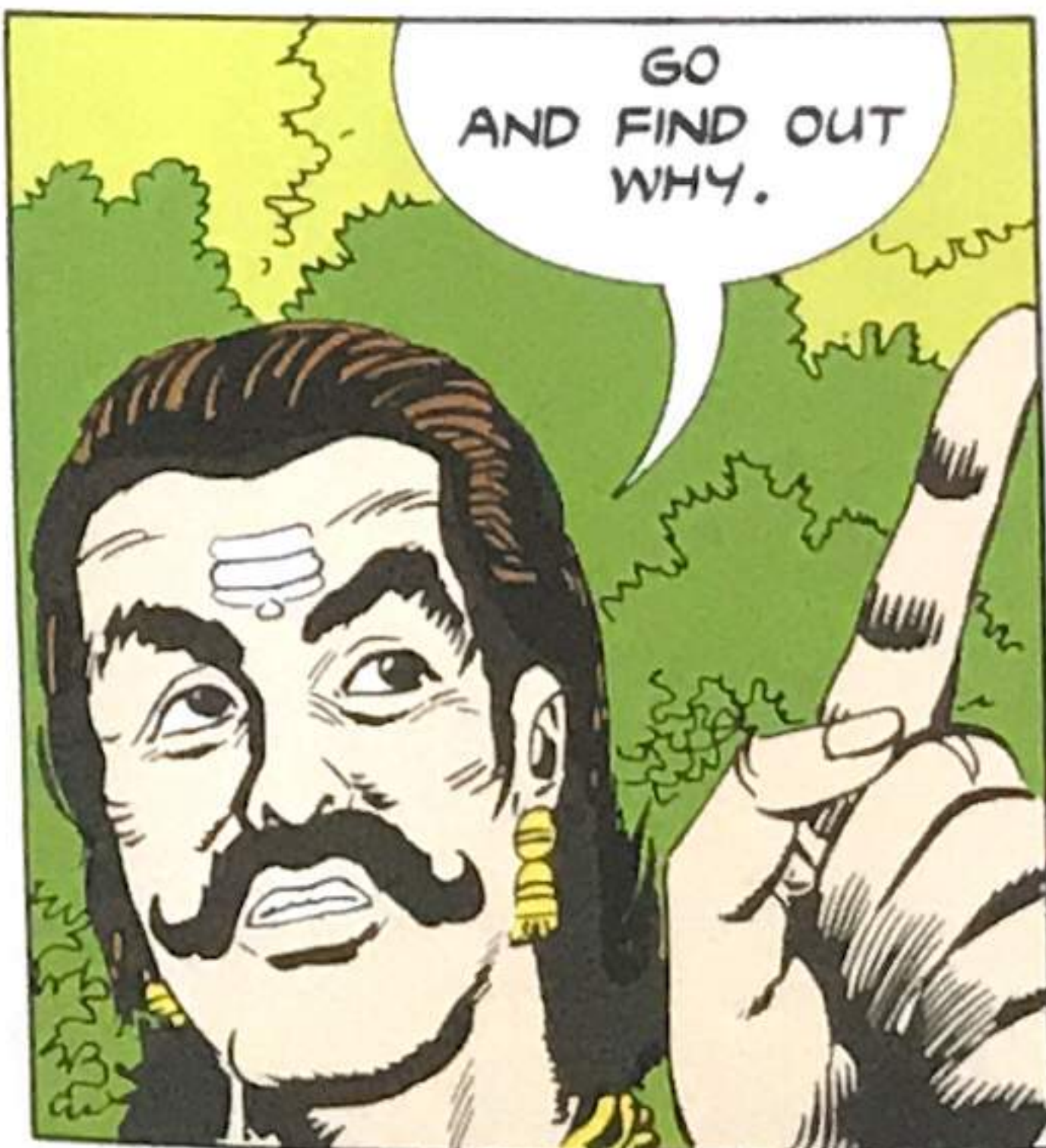
AS IT BEGAN TO WASH AWAY THE  
LINGA, RAVANA'S PRAYERS ENDED  
AND HE OPENED HIS EYES.



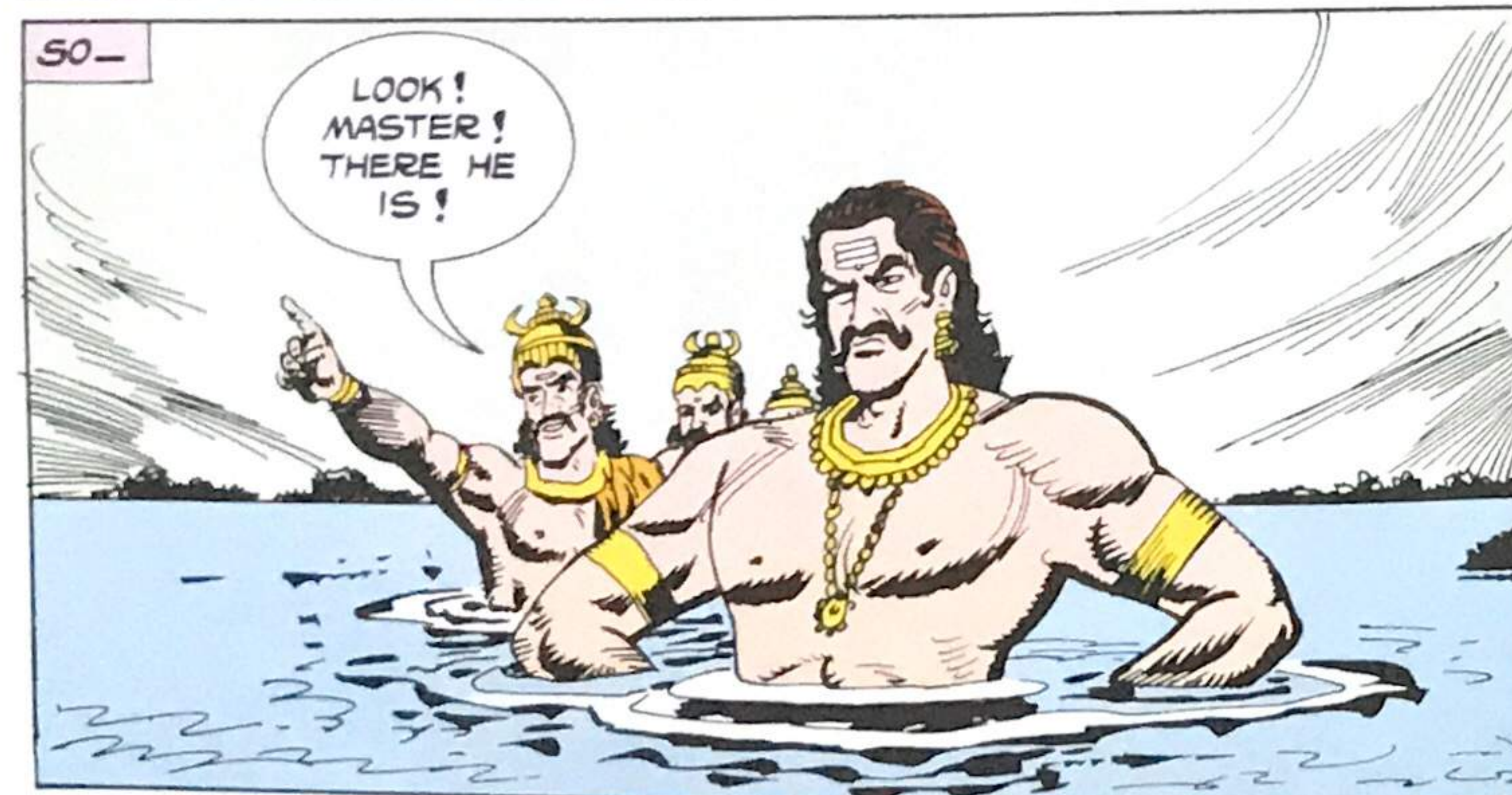
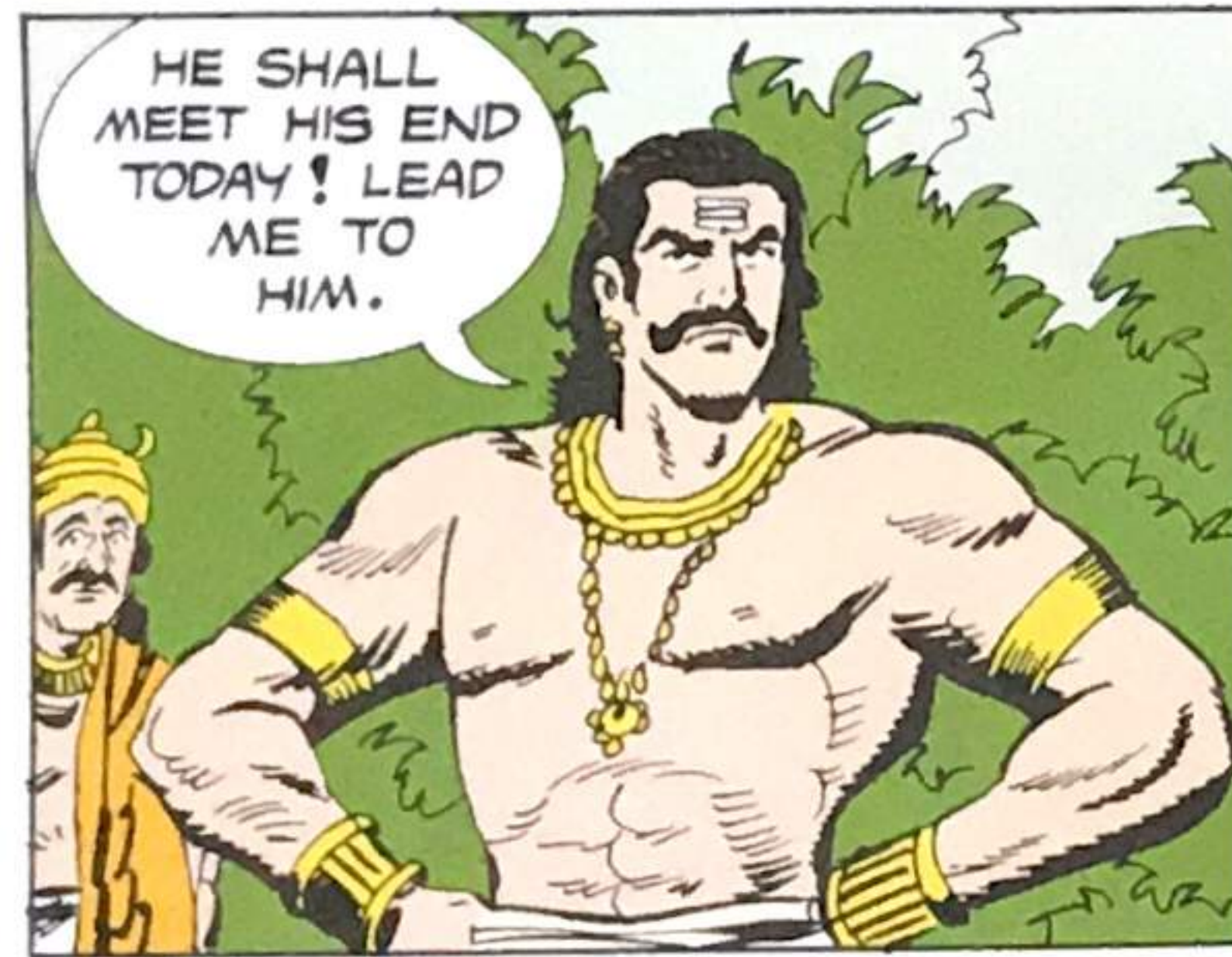
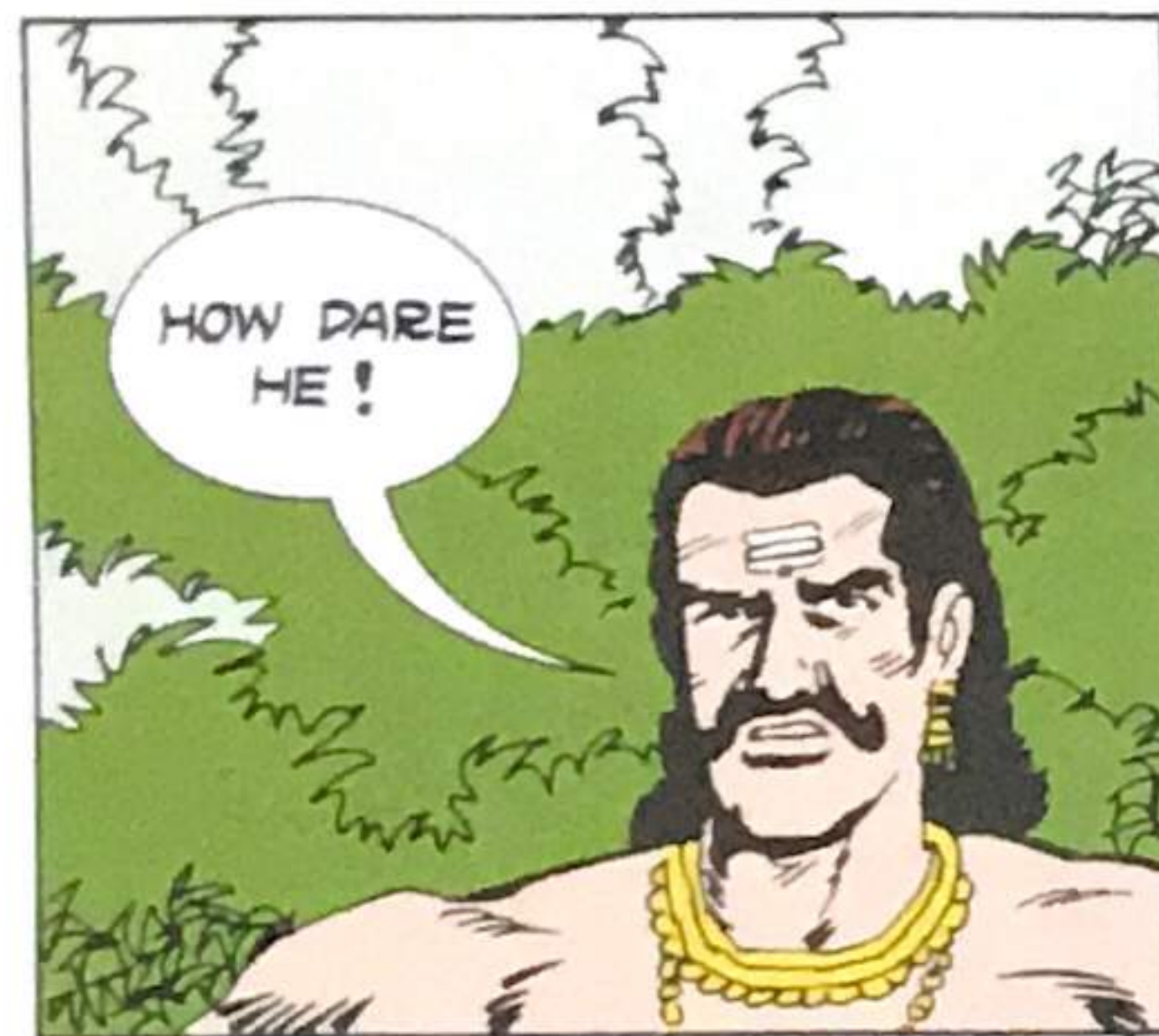
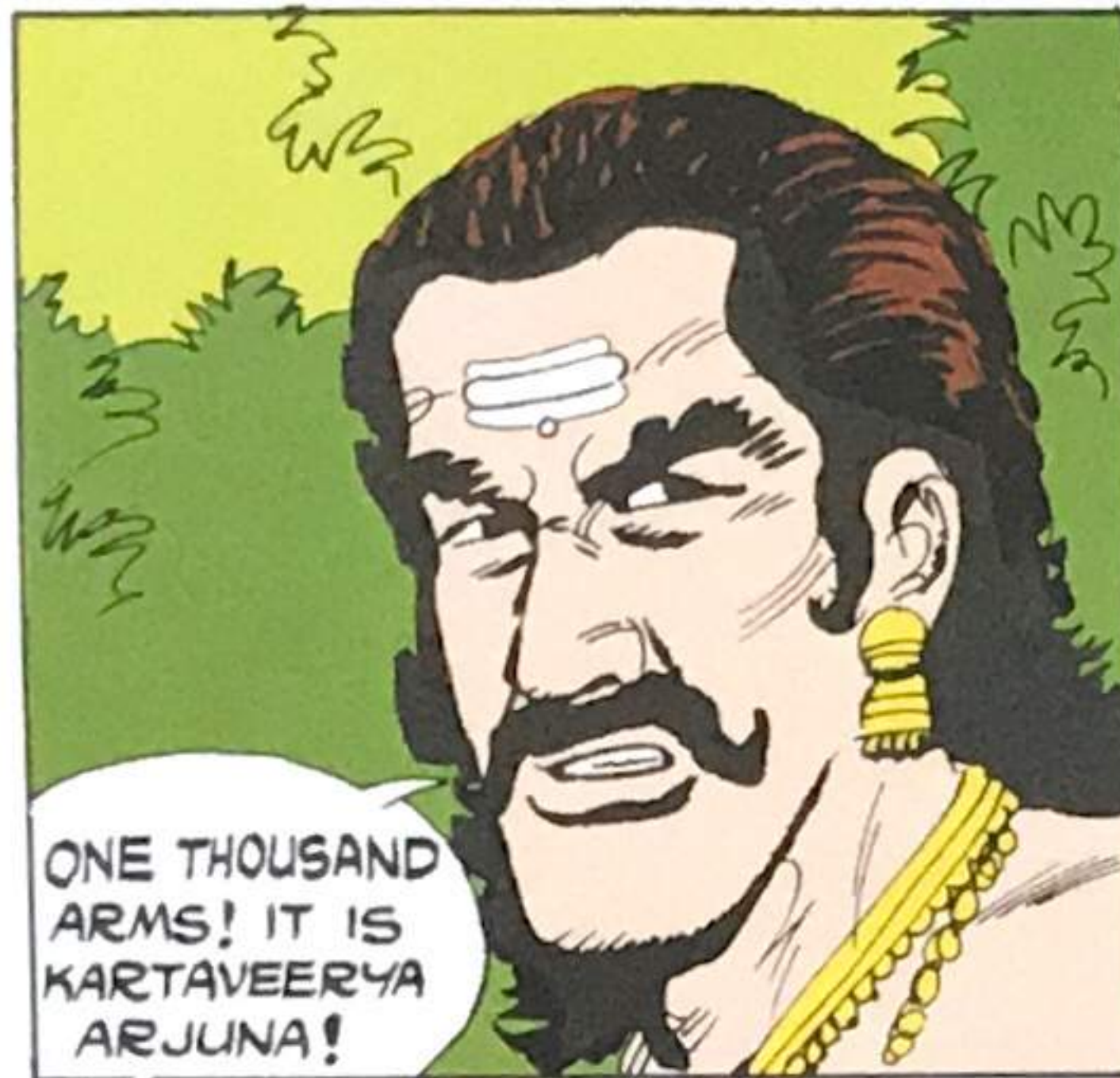
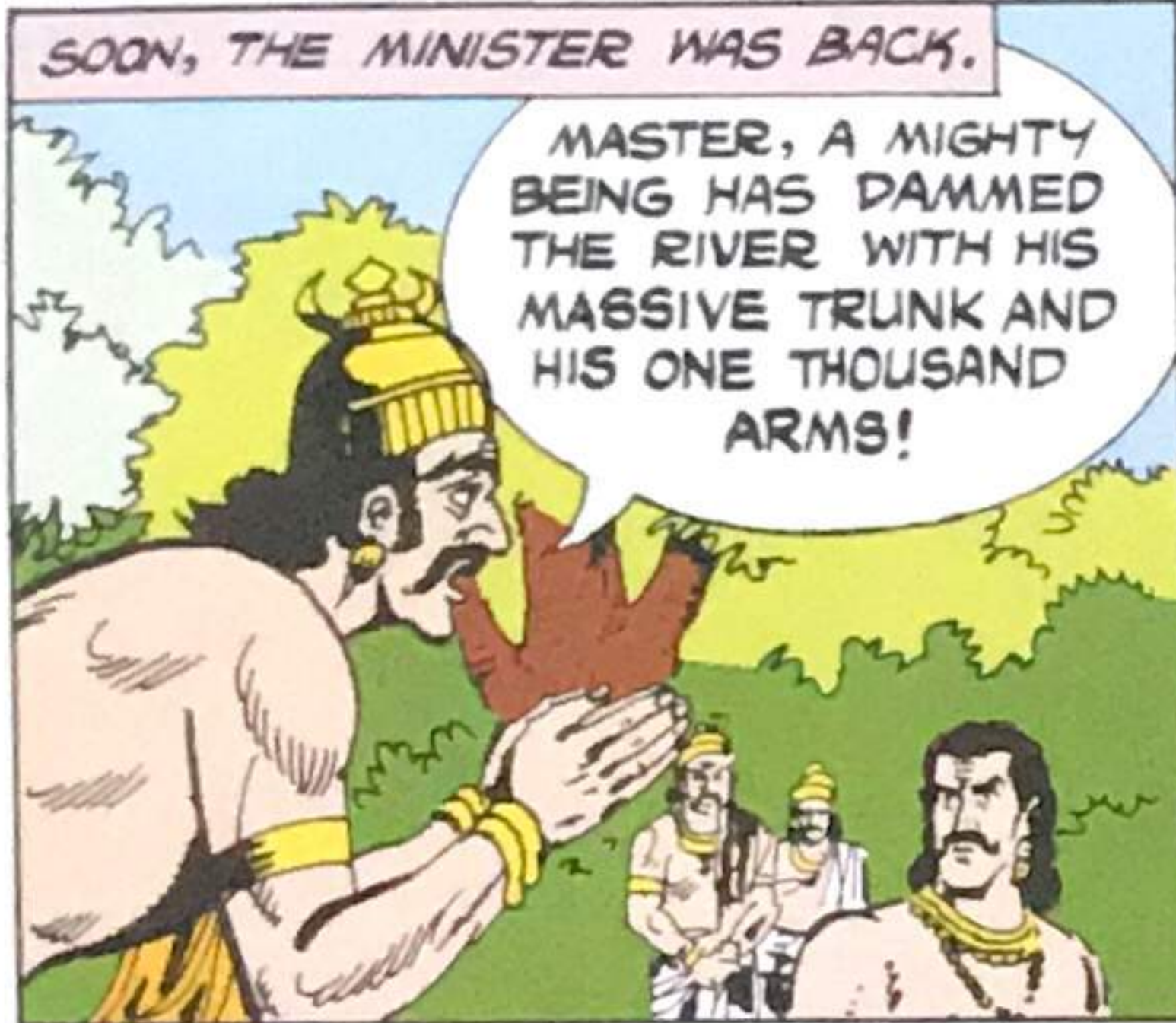
THE RIVER SEEMS  
TO BE IN FLOOD,  
MASTER.



GO  
AND FIND OUT  
WHY.

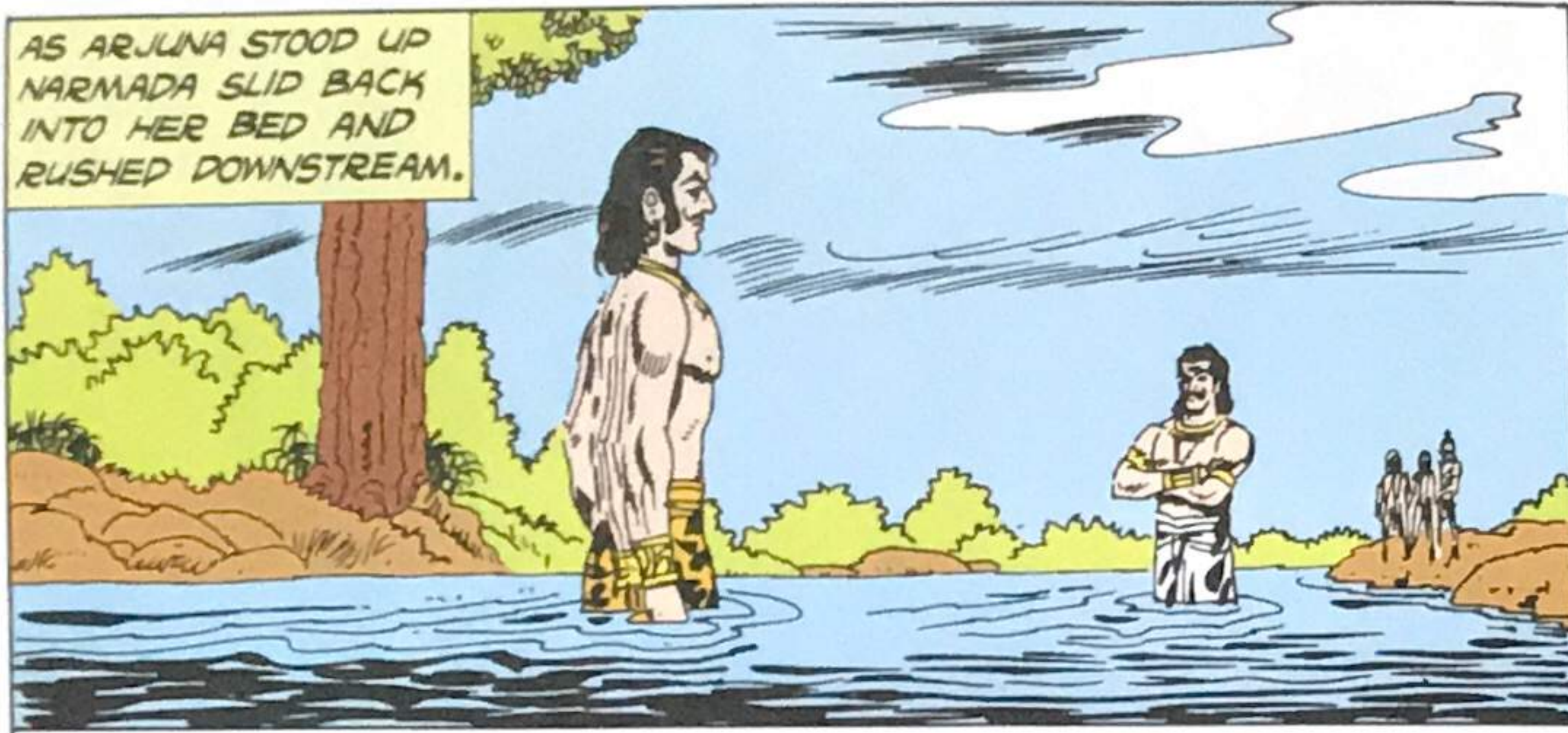








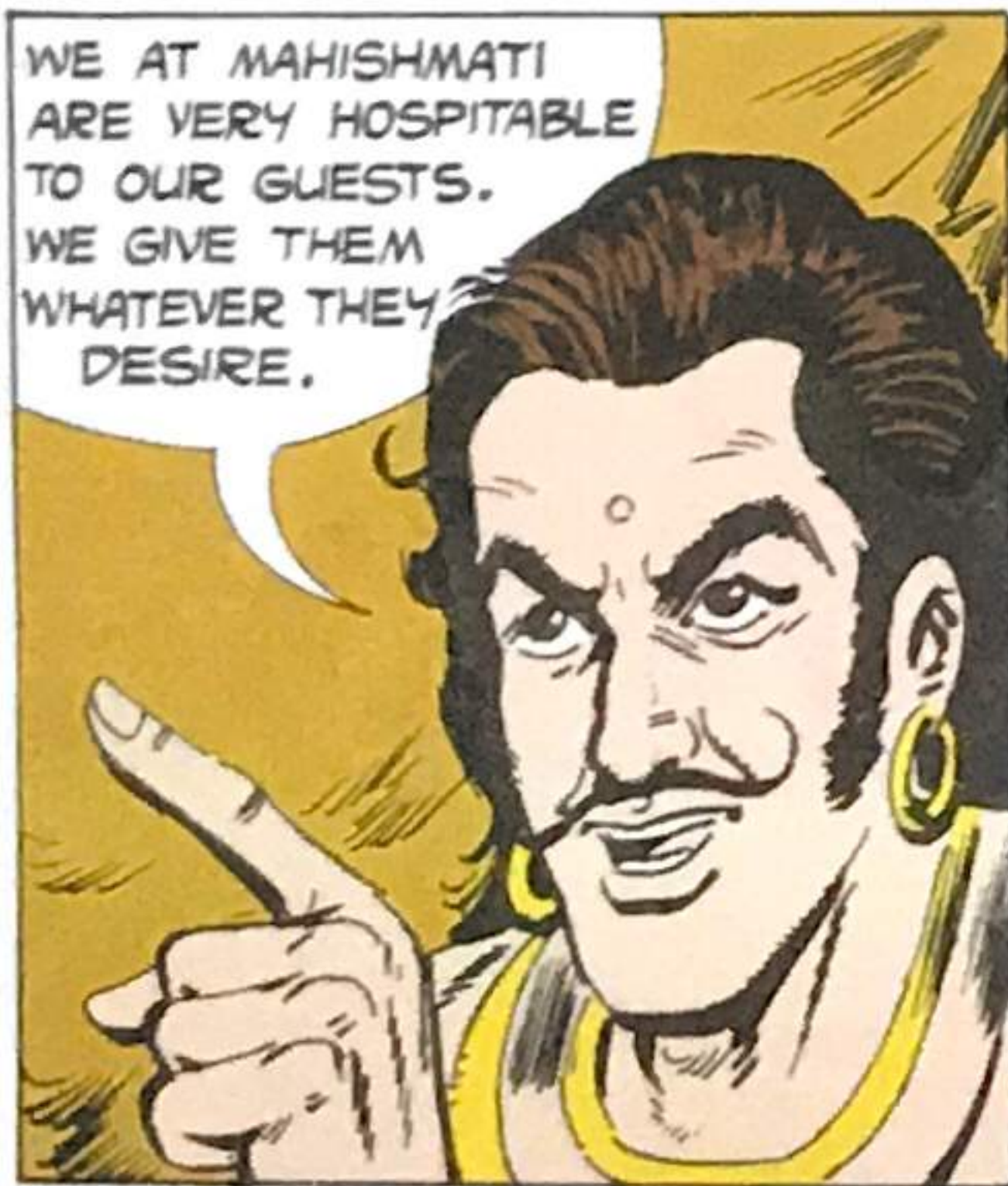
AS ARJUNA STOOD UP NARMADA SLID BACK INTO HER BED AND RUSHED DOWNSTREAM.



ARJUNA STRODE OVER TO RAVANA.



WE AT MAHISHMATI ARE VERY HOSPITABLE TO OUR GUESTS. WE GIVE THEM WHATEVER THEY DESIRE.



SO I WILL GIVE YOU THE BATTLE YOU CRAVE.



THE WEAPON THEY CHOSE WAS THE MACE. THE TWO MIGHTY KINGS FOUGHT LONG AND HARD.



AT LAST A BLOW FROM ARJUNA SENT RAVANA REELING...



...TO THE GROUND.



WHEN RAVANA'S GRANDFATHER, THE SAGE PULASTYA, LEARNT THAT ARJUNA HAD TAKEN HIS GRANDSON PRISONER, HE CAME TO MAHISHMATI.



WELCOME, REVERED ONE!



